

Tianqiao Waterfall in Hebei Province makes an attractive weekend getaway. Bring your hiking boots and a picnic basket.

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Most short-term visitors to Beijing go to Beijing Opera "for tourists".

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Zhou Wenhong follows in the steps of Che as a 27-year-old director.

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A volunteer talks with Li Peng, an Arabic major.
Photo by Gloom

43 Tongues

Universiade volunteers ready to wag that thang

By Shan Jinliang / Yang Cheng

For some, English can perhaps be a bit boring, French *un petit peut passé* and Russian is *do svi-daniya*, comrade.

For the talented few, how about Hausa, maybe some Magyar or perhaps plain old Swahili. They will work as interpreters, tour guides or receptionists, but all share a fascination with languages.

So far, 664 have volunteered to assist with communications in 43 foreign languages at the upcoming Universiade, according to the Registration Department for Small-Language Speaking Volunteers. Li Peng, an Arabic major at Beijing Foreign Studies University said she was thrilled to discover 50 "good friends", all Arabic speakers. She could hardly believe it.

The volunteers come from enterprises, joint ventures, and universities. Many are foreign students in Beijing or foreign workers.

Congress Approves Court Report—Finally

By Shan Jinliang

At 4 pm, August 9, 395 out of 439 deputies pushed their buttons at the fifth session of the 12th Congress of Shenyang, capital of Liaoning Province in Northeast China. With this, the Congress approved the city's intermediate court's 2001 agenda with a support rate of 89.9%. The court's 2000 work report had been rejected by the Congress at the prior session in February.

On February 14, 474 deputies attended the fourth session of the 12th People's Congress of the city, when only 218 deputies voted in favor, 162 against the court's 2000 work report, with 82 abstentions. As the votes in favor did not exceed half of the total votes, the presidium called an emergency meeting and decided the standing committee would continue deliberating the court's work report and then report the results of deliberation at the next session of the congress. Deputies at the 4th session complained the court had been involved in corruption, unfair judgments and inadequate enforcement.

In early April, the Shenyang city Congress Standing Committee over-ruled the 12th People's Congress by deciding the work report was old news and did not need to be deliberated over anymore. The Congress then summoned the fifth session to hear what the court had done to fix the problem and its 2001 work agenda.

The court then began a reform process in May. The Congress replaced Chief Justice Jia Rongxiang and vice chief justices Jiao Meigui and Liang Fuquan. The municipal and intermediate courts have so far punished a total of 27 judges and bailiffs for illegal judgments and violations of discipline enforcement. Deputy Cui Wenxin said the local legislature would play a bigger role in supervising the court in future.



The new court Chief Justice Ding Renshu is interviewed.
Xinhua photo

EDITOR: LIU FENG XIA LEI DESIGNER: PANG LEI



Fans wait, and wait...

Photo by Goldman

Frustrated Fans Fume as Kobe Fails to Show

By Zhao Pu

Some began camping out at 8 am to be sure of good seats. Others came from other cities by train. All wanted to meet the same man. But

NBA star Kobe Bryant did not show at the Millennium Monument on Sunday.

Most waited till evening only to be told Kobe wasn't coming. Enthusiasm turned to disappointment, then anger. Some threw wa-

ter bottles at the empty rostrum. Other angry fans confronted police.

An Adidas Beijing Street Basketball Matches spokesman tried to explain, "Kobe's car has been blocked in Wangfujing Street for two hours

by local fans which caused a severe traffic jam."

He said Adidas was required to cancel the scheduled arrangement right away. "It's a real pity I couldn't meet the fans," Kobe reportedly said later that evening.

Offer 'Unacceptable'

China has rejected \$34,576 as "unacceptable" compensation by the United States for its spy plane, the Foreign Ministry announced last Saturday.

China has expressed the utmost dissatisfaction with the US side, and "resolutely rebuffed" the cash.

US Defense Department spokesman Navy Rear Adm. Craig Quigley had said this week that the Chinese demand for about \$1 million for everything from food for the crewmen to support services for the plane was "unrealistic". Zhang Qiyue, spokeswoman for China's Foreign Ministry, did not say how much money had been offered or how much money would be enough to placate China.

"The so-called 'decision' is unacceptable to China both in its content and form," said Zhang, responding to a news report.

"We urge the US side to correct its erroneous decision, and take into consideration the reasonable request of the Chinese side for an appropriate settlement of the payment issue," she said.

The US 24-member EP-3 crew was held for 11 days after the April 1 collision in a standoff that strained US-China relations in the first months of the administration of President Bush. The plane was dismantled and flown back to the United States on July 3.

Lion Kills Baboon

Wild second day at wildlife park

By Liang Hongling

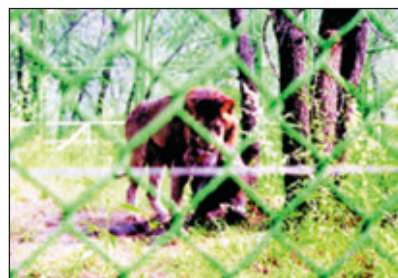
When visitors to the newly opened Beijing wildlife park pelted a baboon with rubbish, the animal panicked, vaulted a 2-meter fence. On the other side of the fence was a lion. Frantic handlers tried to distract the lion, but the startled baboon attacked. The big cat immediately bit the baboon's neck and tore open its belly. The rest was over quickly.

No arrests were made, or suggested, for visitors who broke park regulations to hurl their trash at a wild animal for amusement. Lax safety procedures were criticized by the Beijing media, and the death was seized upon by a broad alliance of experts to question the very idea of the park.

Some views follow:
Liang Chongjie (President, Friends of Nature): It shows the park lacks the

ability to take care of the wildlife. I always strongly disagree with the starting of wildlife parks.

Catching the animals requires great effort and their original habitat is very different from Beijing. So the numbers of these kinds of parks should be minimized.



The killer.

Photo by Liu Jian

Guo Geng (head of training department, Milu Deer Park): The baboon is not a species on the brink of extinction. However, all wildlife is very precious to us. Rearing different wildlife is workable, but the prerequisite should be that we have fully studied and designed the escape conditions for the relatively weak animals.

Beijing Gets Tough on Guns, Explosives

City police have seized an arsenal of illegal explosives and weaponry as part of a nationwide crackdown on illegal production and sales over the past four months.

More than 100 hand grenades, 1,500 guns, 2,500 kgs of gunpowder and dynamite, 12,000 detonators, 3,600 meters of fuses, 270,000 firecrackers have been collected by city public security departments.

Filing 770 cases of illegal production and sales, the Beijing police have so far arrested 290, with a total 790 offenders processed in accordance with the law.

The capital city's achievements will be added to the arsenal of national campaign results.

The Ministry of Public Security on April 18 kicked off a nationwide campaign against the illegal production and sale of explosives and firearms.

The ministry has also compiled a working pamphlet for local police to aid their monitoring and control of illegal guns and explosives.



Shishahai Lake becomes more beautiful after the cleaning process.

Photo by Jackey

Clean Miyun Reservoir Water Flows into City Lakes

500,000 Cubic Meters of Water Have Been Supplied

By Huang Jianhua / Zhao Pu

The “green quilt” on the lake disappeared as clean water from Miyun Reservoir arrived at Beihai Park after the long journey of a hundred kilometers from Miyun County. Beihai Lake looks like a different scene after the cleaning project carried out by the

Beijing Bureau of Water Conservancy.

Recently, the “green quilt” phenomenon appeared in many lakes and rivers in the city due to water shortages and the great fecundity of certain aquatic living organisms. But from August 12 in Beihai Park, the “green quilt” on the lake disappeared and the water was clean and clear. Fish could be seen swimming in the lake. More

people rented boats on the lake according to administrative staff, whereas few people came boating before it was cleaned.

Starting from August 3, Miyun Reservoir has supplied 500,000 cubic meters of clean water to city lakes including Wanquan Lake, Zhongnanhai Lake, Beihai Lake, and North City Moat.

According to the people concerned in the

Beijing Bureau of Water Conservancy, the lakes were emptied first and then cleaned before being refilled with water from the reservoir. The dirty water removed will be recycled in wastewater treatment factories. The water-cleaning project will be finished before the 21st Universiade, with the hope that the water quality of the lakes and rivers in the city will reach grade 3.



Photo by Li Li

Culture Vultures Fly Home Sated

American Youth Savors Taste of Old and New China

By Zhao Pu / Zhou Song

Old Beijingers have seen a thing or two, but their collective jaw must have dropped at the spectacle in the Temple of Heaven in the early hours of last week.

Sword in hand, the flower of American youth busied itself performing Taiji in the popular south Beijing park recently.

Mostly university students aged 17 to 25, the group came to the capital city on a more than month-long cultural exchange organized by Li Li, vice chairman of the Beijing Fellowship Association in USA.

The tour's purpose was for young Americans to “discover the real China”, defined by Li, and so it would seem on this evidence alone they were pretty successful.

Each could master a passable “ni hao,” even the odd “chi le ma?” (“eaten yet?”). The group could sing “Two Tigers,” the Chinese folk song beloved

of Chinese schoolchildren and well-versed foreign residents.

“I’ll probably go back and attend a Taiji class at home,” said Meredith Dodge, 19, from Pomona College, California. The Taiji swords in luggage as the group left on Saturday attested to the enthusiasm of the young Westerners for traditional Chinese culture at a time when the young people of China eagerly embrace Western fashions.

The visitors explored their passions for Chinese hutongs, calligraphy, painting and of course, cuisine. The city’s modernity impressed the tourists and disappointed the travelers. The homogenizing kiss of globalization upon Beijing’s architecture and lifestyle raised mixed feelings. The debate always tends to end at the same place.

“You have things we have in New York,” said Sheena Afaian, 17-year-old high school student. “And I can enjoy nice coffee in Starbucks as I do at home.”

Punishing Officials Who Devastate Environment

Issuing Regulation on Administrative Punishment of Environmental Devastation

By Huang Jianhua / Wang Linkun / Zhao Pu

According to environment protection departments yesterday, a regulation was jointly issued by the Beijing Bureau of Environment Protection and Beijing Bureau of Supervision. It stipulates administrative punishments for those officials in functional departments of the government, officials and staff in enterprises and organizations who break environment protection laws and regulations. Those who commit crimes will be sent to the judicial organs. To put it bluntly, the officials’ titles will depend on the environment protection work in their remit.

According to the environment protection departments, there is still some occurrence of environmental devastation although the capital’s overall environment has been greatly improved. The major reason is that certain officials and staff are irresponsible or even break the law in their work. Since the environment protection department is not entitled with an administrative punishing right, they cannot punish those officials and staff who devastate the environment. The Temporary Regulation on Administrative Punishment of Actions Against the Environment Protection Law issued directly by the Beijing Bureau of Supervision this time closely monitors the responsible people in charge of environment protection.

Returning Chinese Students Propel Beijing High-tech Industry Forward

Numbers of Chinese Students Returning to Beijing Increase by 13 % Annually

By Zhou Song

With the success of the 2008 Olympic Bid in hand, Beijing has become an attraction for more and more returning Chinese students. Xia Yingqi, a senior official at Zhongguancun Science Park declared that returning Chinese students have become a leading force in the development of Beijing’s high-tech industry, and are the capital’s most valuable treasures.

Beijing’s overseas students make up one-fifth of all returning students to China; the same goes for the returning personnel. In recent years, 13% more overseas Chinese students than previous years have come back to Beijing to start businesses. This serves as a great supplement to Beijing’s human resources. By the end of July, nearly 380 registered companies have been set up by returning



Zhongguancun Science Park

Photo by Jackey

Chinese students in Zhongguancun Science Park. Due to the generally higher education of the returning Chinese students and their practical experience in large overseas companies, Mr. Xia said, they bring advanced means of production and operation, and are indispensable talents for developing high-tech industry in Beijing.

At the same time, on the threshold of China’s entry into WTO, Beijing is also facing a shortage of high-tech talent, especially talent of a comprehensive nature including high educational background and rich experience in the areas of law and economics. Beijing provides returning overseas students with good conditions, thus encouraging them to come home and contribute to China’s development.



Zhuo Changren

Two Kidnappers Executed in Taiwan

By Zhou Song

Zhuo Changren and Jiang Hongjun who were suspected of being involved in kidnapping and killing Wang Junjie, the son of former vice-president of Taiwan’s Guotai hospital, were executed by shooting on 10th August.

On 16th August 1991, Zhuo Changren and Jiang Hongjun, Shi Xiaoling planned the kidnap and later killed the hostage. Wang Junjie was detained by the three defendants from 1991 to 2000. On 22nd September 2000, Zhuo and Jiang were condemned to death.

After the verdict, Zhuo’s attorney submitted to special appeal. However it was rejected because of insufficient evidence.

Macao Business Delegation to Visit Western China

A delegation of more than 70 managers of Macao’s small and medium-sized enterprises left here Sunday for a week-long visit to China’s western areas.

The visit will enable Macao businessmen to have a better understanding of China’s Go-West campaign and the concrete needs of China’s western areas in the upcoming economic take-off, said Stanley Au, president of the Macao Association of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises, and leader of the delegation.

Members of the delegation are from the sectors of trade, finance, wholesale and retail sales, manufacturing, building, engineering, tourism and telecommunications in Macao. They plan to visit Shaanxi, Chongqing and Beijing.

Au said before his departure that the visit will also raise the popularity of Macao’s enterprises in western China, and that the delegation members expect to find business partners.

Macao’s enterprises should act as a bridge between China’s inland and the outside world in economic development, he said.

The business people from Macao and western China will have a chance to exchange experience and strengthen cooperation during the visit, he added.

It is of great significance for Macao’s enterprises to step out of Macao and involve themselves in the campaign of developing western China, said Edmund Ho Hau Wah, chief executive of the Macao special administrative region, in a recent meeting with the delegation.

(Xinhuanet)



The price of gasoline drops to 2.67 yuan per liter Photo by Jackey

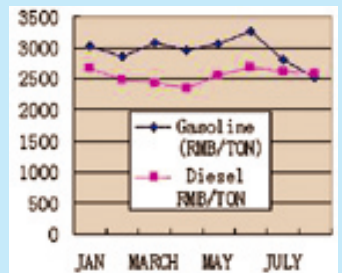
Oil Price Keeps on Falling

By Su Peng

August 12, after a new co-ordination, the price of gasoline and diesel in China has been cut again. The price of gasoline even reached the lowest standard of the year. This is the 8th price adjustment as well as the 4th and 5th reduction in the price of gasoline and diesel respectively (see diagram). The price of gasoline and diesel is cut by 280 yuan /ton and 50 yuan /ton respectively this time, with a standard retail price reduction of the same margin.

The petroleum price system of China experienced huge reform in 1998, with the price determined in line with the fluctuation of the international oil market. From last year, the average of daily prices on the Singapore oil market from the 26th of a month to the following 25th, is used as the basic price of the next month in China. The China State Development Planning Commission is in charge of the monthly announcement of the standard oil price. This ensures oil prices change in accordance with international standards.

In contrast to the delight felt by consumers, the oil companies and the retailers suffer great losses from the price cuts. To their disappointment, the oil price has constantly fallen recently, and the prospect of the coming future is also pessimistic as the international oil market is gloomy. An official from OPEC considers that global oil prices will continue to fall well into the autumn.



Gasoline and diesel prices from January to August in China

Chart by Su Peng

Here Comes Lord Woolf

By Yang Qing

When Lord Woolf was appointed as Lord Chief Justice of England & Wales last year, he realized that he would play an important role on access to justice. During his visit to Beijing in late July, he introduced a series of UK projects carried out in China on law and access to justice.

This would be the final part of a series of UK projects carried out in China over three years in the fields of legal aid and access to justice. In September 2000, a delegation from the Chinese Judicial Research Institute of the Ministry of Justice, led by Yan Junxing, Deputy Director-General, visited the UK to study legal access issues within the British legal system to draw on British expertise in the development of China's own legal aid service system.

The 68-year-old Lord Chief Justice was born in Newcastle in May 1933 and graduated from University College London. During his term as Lord Justice of Appeal between 1986 and 1992, he carried out the inquiry into prison disturbances in 1990 and finished the Strange ways riots completing Part II with Judge Tumin.

By Jason Young

Wang announced that he would no longer be the chairman of my8848.net on August 8. It really disappointed all netizens. His departure followed closely after that of B2B (business to business) pioneer MeetChina.com CEO Tong Jiawei and portal pioneer Sina.com CEO Wang Zhidong. Many netizens wonder whether the Internet has already gone off the road.

Last Saturday Wang Juntao accepted our interview and told the main reason for his resignation is a disagreement with the two investors.

Last December the parent 8848.net passed all its B2C (business to consumer) business to one local investor, Shenzhen-based company Wanquanhe. Wanquanhe promised to spend 70 million yuan on buying 20% of the newly established my8848.net's 20% shares.

Wang said he believed B2C is developing better than ever at present in China, and, therefore, the environment is at its best now. However, his investor did not think so. From April, 8848.net completed its split of B2C business, but Wanquanhe's guaranteed capital did not come, even after much bargaining. Wanquanhe stopped pouring in the money, worrying that the investment



Wang Juntao: Bye Bye My8848

would never be returned. "Today I don't want to criticize any of the investors, but next time when I look for investors, I will choose a company whose business is related to B2C. For example, I prefer supermarkets to manufacturers," Wang said.

Wang Juntao is the first warm advocator of B2C. He insists B2C will make a profit no matter what the circumstances of the Internet. But neither his 8848.net nor my8848.net does meet the ends. Wang Juntao explained,



My confidence in B2C has not been put into doubt or wavered after all Photo by Wang Zhenlong

"my8848.net nearly reached the end of the balance sheet by the end of April, their quarrels have seriously frustrated the company's day-to-day operations and future development."

Wang, a whiz kid from Fujian Province, became famous by writing warm-hearted football match comments.

As a former software retailer, he started to promote the B2C model three years ago.

He launched 8848.net in March 1999, and hoped his retailing busi-

ness could be as significant as Mount Qomolangma, the highest peak in the world.

Because the depression of B2C model received criticisms in the USA on its poor payback and the investors in 8848.net wanted to go IPO on NASDAQ, increasing pressure from investors has forced 8848.net to shift its focus from B2C to B2B. Investors decided to lay Wang Juntao off and push his B2C business out of the company at the end of 2000. In a spin-off of B2C from B2B sector, he left 8848.net and launched my8848.net.

Leaving my8848.net does not stop Wang's belief in B2C. He is in close discussions with sparkice.com, a B2B website, focusing on export and import business reported from alocal newspaper. It is said that Wang would probably become the manager of ec123.com, the retailing branch of sparkice.com, according to a spokeswoman for sparkice.com. "Wang has visited us many times and is now in the final decision-making period," she said. Though Wang denied the report during the interview, he admitted that he is talking with investors and some companies' leaders including ec123.net. He said he would be back soon and stay in the world of B2C.

Influence from Yin Guangxia Deepening

By Yang Xiao

Companies have experienced negative effects after buying Yin Guangxia's shares, just at the time when the China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC)'s investigation group has started probing Yin Guangxia Co.

One listed company, Shanghai Jinling owns 712,9846 shares which are worth 222,879,247 yuan. The average price is 31.26 yuan which is higher than it was before suspension. The price immediately dropped 10% after the company confessed it had the shares. Also, a fund management company Dacheng announced on August 11 that it has 115.7 million shares of Yin Guangxia which are valued at 353 million yuan.

Last Friday Yin Guangxia's board sent a letter to the media that it would make thorough investigations. In the announcement it dismissed Dong Bo, Chairman of Tianjin Guangxia for deepening the inspections. Tianjin Guangxia is the subsidiary of Yin Guangxia. It did book false data about product output, the level of exports, foreign exchange settlement and financial information. The problem is serious and extensive,

and requires sweeping investigation, the paper said.

The company hopes to complete an investigation report within 30 days. But if the time is not enough, it will continue to suspend the shares to avoid the passive feeling in the stock market.

The company's explanation follows one influential probe article *Trap of Yin Guangxia* on China's well-known monthly magazine *Caijing*. After publication the article stirred up the stock market and forced Yin Guangxia to suspend its shares for one month since August 4.

Yin Guangxia is the third largest listed company in China after Shenzhen Development Bank and Baoshan Steel. It values 8.621 million yuan of circulation shares. If it rises or drops 10%, the Shenzhen Stock Index will move 0.38%. The influence is deepening.

On august 13 Zhou Zhengqing, Vice chairman Of the CSRC, finally represented the watchdog to support minority shareholders. He encouraged minority shareholders of Yin Guangxia to sue the company's management team and relevant inter-mediate firms such as law firms and Accounting Firms.

Sina Faces Lawsuit

Users angry at unanticipated 90% reduction of free e-mail space

By Jason Young

Leading Chinese Internet portal Sina.com (NASDAQ: SINA) said on July 25 that it will diminish its free e-mail service and offer a fee-based e-mail service amid a sector-wide trend toward finding new ways to make money from existing users. Sina has started charging since Wednesday. Sina owns the largest number of e-mail users of the 22 million in China. It will cut the memory of the inboxes in its free e-mail service to 5 megabytes from 50M and offer a paid service that would be faster and safer, the firm said in a statement.

On August 3, a user

21CN.net, 263.net and 163.net have already introduced fees for e-mail. Here follows the price list:

Sina	365 days × 0.35 yuan = 10M /year; 365 days × 1.3 yuan = 50M /year; 365 days × 2 yuan = 100M /year;
21CN	20 yuan /month;
263.net	180 yuan /year;
163.net	standard model 5 yuan /month; luxurious model 120 yuan /month.



Sina was always proud of its large capacity inboxes

Photo by Chen Shuyi

called Mr. Yang, from Chengdu, Sichuan province, announced that he was ready to sue Sina for unilaterally violating the agreement they signed together. After acquiring advice from lawyers Yang considered that the inbox was his private asset after Sina passed it to him. "According to Civil Law, Sina has no power to reduce the

space of my inbox especially when it has already been passed to me." Yang says.

But a lawyer from Sichuan Junhe Law Firm takes the opposite view regarding this matter. He says, "E-mail is just a service provided by the ICP, so its users only have a right to use, but not the right to own."

Although the Internet has made rapid progress recently, there is no specific law on this field. Facing such thorny problems, many lawyers and judges are appealing for the establishment of an Internet Law.

"Paid e-mail service is an important step in network service providers responding to the demands of the market," Sina GM Wang Yan was quoted as saying. "People using the paid e-mail service would be protected from e-mail advertisements and hacker attacks," he said.

Users of its free e-mail service will have until September 15 to pare down their inboxes to five megabytes of memory. China has 26.5 million Internet users, according to the most recent official survey.



China Unicom pager ads have retreated to their stores

Photo by Chen Shuyi

Paging Business Fades away

China Unicom cuts 39% of its jobs

By Jason Young

Last week Hong Kong's stock market index, the Hang Seng, hit a two-year low and fell 4% when China Unicom confessed big job losses last Friday, according to a *Financial Times* report on August 12.

It considers that China Unicom shares have now fallen to HK\$11.15, down more than a quarter since floatation in June last year. Last week they tumbled 14 per cent.

One reason was that its parent, the second-largest telephone company China United Telecommunications (CUT), cut almost 35,000 jobs which account for nearly 39% of the total jobs. This was the first major Chinese telecom company to announce such big job losses. The parent company now only has 53,187 employees.

The problems stem from its paging division. China Unicom relies on custom-

ers who use pagers. Yet as more people move to mobile phones, the users of pagers in China Unicom have fallen 10% from 44.52 million to 40.05 million since January.

The Ministry of Information Industry (MII) announced it would set up CUT for competing with the monopoly China Telecom several years ago, the MII handed over its most profitable company, Guoxin Paging Co., valued at over 7 billion yuan, to CUT. But along with mobile phones taking place of pagers, Guoxin has definitely become a heavy burden.

CUT had difficulties with a planned share and debt sale to domestic investors to fund the expansion of its wireless network. Market speculation was that the plans may break company law, although this was later denied. The company faces changes in billing practices. It may have to give customers longer to pay bills, and stop charging receivers of calls as well as callers.

Foreigners Welcome to Work in Securities

By Yu Lixian

The China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC) was reported to have canceled nationality limits on employment in securities, thus drawing more talents from overseas. Relevant regulations are being formulated.

News from the Securities Times said that, the Department of Intermediary Supervision under the CSRC is consulting securities professionals on the framework of laws and regulations concerning the supervision and administration of securities brokerage.

According to CSRC, it has enacted close to 40 laws, regulations or standardizing documents concerning the market access, supervision and exit of stock companies. A system of rules and regulations has been tentatively formed, in which the securities laws form the core, administrative regulations are the supplement, and department regulations are the main body.

But most of the current laws and regulations were simply enacted negatively to meet the needs of market development. With the further development of securities, some drawbacks have been exposed. To promote the innovation and comprehensive development of securities, CSRC

decided to formulate the framework of laws and regulations concerning the supervision and administration of securities brokerage, based on the practical situation in China and international conventions.

An official from CSRC further explained that, the drafting Supervision and Administration Regulations of Stock Companies would embody the general requirements for a stock company. It will include four categories: brokerage, business, self-supervision and personnel.

As to the laws and regulations governing relations with foreigners, some new regulations concerning the supervision

and administration of Sino-foreign joint venture stock companies, and the representative brokerage of foreign securities brokerage in China - to name a few, would also be enacted to further standardize the securities, the official revealed.

The framework of the rules and regulations concerning the supervision and administration of securities brokerage has two categories at a legislative level, which are administrative rules and department regulations. As the administrative category, the rules governing relations with foreigners must be ratified by the State Council before enactment.

Huarong to Host Worldwide Projects Recommendation and Sales

By Zhao Hongyi

China Huarong Asset Management Corporation (CHAMC) announced it would host project recommendation and sales bidding on October 22. This will be the first of its kind to be fully practiced under international rules.

Huarong, founded in 1999, is assigned to dispose of more than 400 billion yuan (US\$48 billion) in non-performing loans (NPL) by the central government.

Huarong (<http://www.chamc.com.cn>), together with Dongfang (<http://www.coamc.com.cn>), Changcheng (<http://www.gwamcc.com>) and Xinda (<http://www.cinda.com.cn>), are the four asset management corporations established to handle bad loans from the major banks of the country.

According to Mr. Li Xiaopeng, vice president of Huarong, a total of 21.36 billion yuan credits from 341 debtors will be categorized into five blocks based on the geographic locations and industries they belong to. These bad credits will be opened for bidding to both domestic and foreign investors.

The company handled ledger assets valued at 6.22 billion yuan (about 759 million US dollars) in the first half of this year, recovering assets valued at 3.689 billion yuan. 2.3 billion yuan (US\$277 million) of these were in cash and 1.4 billion yuan (US\$168 million) were in the form of assets. The rates of cash recovering and assets recovering climbed to 37.1% and 59.3 percent respectively.

China Cooperates with France in Developing Grape Wine

By Zhou Song

Chang Yu Wine Group Co. Ltd. Yantai (Chang Yu) signed a contract with Vin Alcoolset Spiritueux de France (VASE) in Beijing on August 8.

The first step of cooperation is that each of the contracting companies buys shares in the other: Chang Yu makes an investment into Red Counsel Wine manufactory in Lang Fang whose 51% shares are held by VASE, now Chang Yu holds 41% shares; at the same time, VASE invests in the Grape Wine Planting Manor which site in Fushan district, Yantai, so they will hold 30% shares and Chang Yu hold 70%.

A senior official revealed that, from now on, the contracting companies would share the marketing network and freight distribution.

"China in Your Eyes"

The "China in Your Eyes", a photography contest hosted by "Overseas Digest" has been prolonged till the end of August 2001.

Applicants are encouraged to participate. But all photos should be submitted prior to August 31, 2001.

For more info, please contact:

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Shanghai
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Address: 13 Fl. D Tower,
Jianjing Tower, 1399 Beijing
Xilu, Shanghai, China 200040
Tel: 021-62792240
Fax: 021-32220002



Photo by Zhuang Jian

China Post & Foreign Companies Carve up Express Market

By Shan Jinliang/Zhou Song

A promising future for the express mail market

It is estimated that China's present express mail market size has exceeded dozens of billions of yuan with an annual increase rate of 30%. Zhang Bin, CEO of DHL, compares China's express market to a cake stand, "the more people like eating cakes, the number of stands will rise, and with the increase in supply, more people come and all the cake-makers will make a profit."

Face-to face competition yet to come

When UPS (United Parcel Service) opened direct flights to China this April, many comments said that China could not bear the violet impact from international express giants. However, an official from China Post says that the two sides are still trying to expand their strong points and have not started face-to face competition as international companies only operate air express services and the two sides are competing in different areas.

Competitors will eventually meet

It does not mean that China Post has nothing to worry about, as competitors will meet one day. Bei Yumin, General Manager of the East Operation Department of DHL says that the company has obtained licenses for operating domestic business. They will get to it once time matures. Faced with international competition, China Post will not dare ease up even a little, and has made every effort to deal with it.



Central Business District (CBD) is one of the priorities on the municipal government's agenda. Located in the eastern part of the city and neighboring the diplomatic area, Beijing's CBD famous for its excellent business accommodations, multicultural atmosphere and leisuring facilities.

Photo by Zhuang Jian

Enterprise Culture to Flourish at Chaoyang Festival

By Zhou Song

The 2nd Beijing Chaoyang International Business Festival will be held from September 19th to 22nd. Up to now, NO.1 hall for Plan of Central Business District (CBD) and Enterprise Image Exhibition has already been booked out by several enterprises including Jing Lun Hotel, McDonald's Beijing, Kyocera Cooperation, Xintian International Group, and Silver Tie Holding Limited.

The festival consists of 4 main parts including exhibition, forum, investment and culture. Over 20 programs will be promoted with the Plan of CBD and Enterprise Image Exhibition being the focus, aiming at introducing the CBD plan and showing the international enterprise image. The developing pattern of "one line and two flanks" (one line: central axis; two flanks: CBD in the east and Zhongguancun Science Park in the west) will be introduced for promoting the 3.99sq.kilometers CBD area.

In the 1st Beijing Chaoyang International Business Festival, there were 363 cooperation projects with a total investment volume of 14.8 billion yuan. It contributed a lot to the development of the capital's economy.

The biggest difference of this Festival is that it fully promulgates enterprise culture through this enterprise image display. More authorities in advertisement are coming to Beijing, "Top Ten Advertisements Appraisal for New Century Enterprise Image" will be selected out.

By Yu Lixian

A symposium concerning the multi-purpose disposal technology of urban garbage and cooperation projects of environmental protection opened at Kunlun Hotel on August 10th, 2001. The three-day symposium was sponsored by China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT).

Statistics showed that 688 Chinese cities produced 190 million tons of garbage over the year 2000, with an annual 8% rate of increase. The storage of urban garbage in China has reached 6 billion tons, and more than 200 cities have been surrounded by garbage.

But Chinese garbage has been becoming a gold mine in the eyes of Americans. No wonder the Export-Import Bank of the United States, and as well as many other agencies from China and abroad were attracted to the symposium.

Professor Qu also held that garbage is a kind of inexhaustible resource, but put in the wrong place. The industrialization of garbage is coming.

According to Professor Qu, the best way of garbage disposal is to classify and recover it for multipurpose uses, instead of covering it up. Some 70% of the current urban garbage can be recovered.

"Beijingers produce more than 7 million tons of garbage annually, 3 million tons of which are picked up by rural villagers and sold for a net profits of 1 billion yuan," said Professor Qu Geping

Garbage or Gold?



Garbage recovering industry is yet for further upgrading in the country.

Photo by Cui Jun

MOP to Allow Foreigners into Talent Market

By Yu Lixian

The central government is drafting rules to regulate the operation of foreign investors entering the Chinese talent market, revealed Tang Jun, vice-director of the Department of Human Resources Exchange under the Ministry of Personnel (MOP).

In fact, the MOP already released a talent market regulation in 1996. It stipulated that foreign investors could enter the Chinese talent market by forming joint ventures with their Chinese counterparts, if ratified by the provincial government. But few overseas firms have been granted the privilege.

With the development of China's opening up and the requirement of the World Trade Organization, the new policy of market accession, if adopted, is likely to cancel the approval process.

Although the Chinese talent market still faces a tough road to being fully open, and the opening of the intermediary market remains at an initial stage, professionals have made different analyses on the possible trends of the future Chinese talent game:

In a more orderly market, domestic and foreign companies can join hands to make the market bigger, a management consultant said.

A chief executive of an employment website held that the fragile Chinese employment service providers will be dramatically stricken.

Some believe that foreign companies will have to retreat, for they lack crucial understanding of the local culture.

However, there were still people saying businesses of Chinese and foreign employment companies will not overlap each other.

Games Boss Reunites with His Chinese Driver



Photo by Sun Ming

By Sun Ming

"I'm very happy to be Killian's driver again," said Wang Qinghai, a driver at the State Guest Service Company, after he was chosen to serve George E. Killian, the highest official of the Universiade.

Killian is President of the Executive Committee of the International University Sports Federation (FISU). Last year he sent a fax to Li Guobin, the Vice-Secretary-General of the Organization Committee of the FISU, asking specifically that Wang should be his driver during the 21st Universiade. Killian said

his wife and he couldn't forget Wang's excellent service when Wang drove for them on their previous visit to Beijing.

"Perhaps he remembered some of my thoughtful acts," said Wang, who claims his English was too poor to allow him to talk much to the sports official. He tried to make up for it with considerate services - for example, every time he picked up Killian, he always arrived 30 minutes early and turned the air-conditioning on to make the car comfortable. He also noticed that the 70-year-old Killian didn't seem to like people fussing over him all the time, so at first he didn't help him in and out of the car. One time, however, Killian gave his hand naturally to Wang when he was struggling to get out of the car. From then on, Wang helped Killian of his own accord.

"He likes me and we're together again," said Wang. "It must be fate. However, I'll do my best to make any foreigner appreciate my service."

Japanese Drunkards Assault Taxi Driver

By Chen Ying

The news that four drunken Japanese youths assaulted a taxi driver near Scitech Tower last Friday has caused outrage around the city. Citizens are debating how to avoid similar incidents while condemning the youths.

On the evening of August 10, the four drunken youths got into a taxi on the western side of Scitech Tower. One of them vomited in the cab, and when the driver Wei Wenhua demanded they clean up the mess, they not only refused, but also wanted to get out and take another taxi. When Wei tried to prevent them from leaving, they hit him and called on several friends to come to assist them. They were even rude to the policemen who took charge of the accident.

After investigation, the four youths were ordered to apologize to Wei and pay him a compensation of 500 yuan. However they just left the police station, throwing down the 500 yuan, without saying a word to Wei.

The following day, Wei changed the entire seat covering and floor mats. But there

is still a nauseating smell in the taxi. "I can't go on with my business today, because I feel so bad. I insist that those youths should apologize to me face to face. Dignity can't be bought with 500 yuan," he said.

The Beijing transportation bureau has issued a press release to express its position. It includes three main points: the driver's behavior is in line with Beijing taxi regulations; the passengers should abide by these regulations and behave in a civil manner.

The bureau also stated that to protect the drivers' safety, taxi drivers have the right to refuse passengers in six specific situations: when the passenger is drunk; when the passenger hails a taxi in a no stopping; when the passenger attempts to place in the taxi forbidden, or dirty articles; when the passenger is suffering from psychosis and is not accompanied by a guardian; when the passenger wants to travel outside the metropolitan area at night; and when the passenger asks the driver to break transportation security rules.

Pearl Harbor Proves to Be A Gold Mine



Photo by Baizi

Pearl Harbor is a popular film these days in the capital. Premiering on August 8, the American WW2 epic took 3,660,000 yuan at the box office in the first five days, making it Beijing's highest grossing film of the year. (By Sun Ming)

Fire Dancer

By Ivy Zhang

Rachel Henson, with her light brown hair and big hazel eyes stands out in the crowd of Chinese onlookers.

Rachel loves Fire Dancing. The flying torch leaves a rainbow-like trail in the dark. "I like to hear the sound made from the waving flames. It is wonderful!" She says, "My audience also likes it. I feel that this is not the power of my performance but the power of fire. Everybody likes fire cause it is a mixture of warmth and mystery."

Rachel began to live an independent life when she turned 20. In Britain, she studied Chinese language, clowning and improvisation. Once, she drove a renovated trailer to France, earning money while traveling and enjoyed a long happy time there.

Her dream is to become a female knight-errant, like a heroine from a Chinese Kongfu movie. Thus, Rachel came to China five years ago and began to study Peking Opera. During the first two years, Rachel worked hard at the Beijing Opera Academy. However,

Director by day
Performer by night

Photo by Wang Wei

er, she finally gave up the chance to become a Wudan (a female warrior character in Peking Opera) due to her inflexible waist.

During the past years, performance has been Rachel's main love. All her joy and sorrow comes from performance. "My happiest moment is when I see my performance won a success. The failures made me upset and angry. It is really a great fun to communicate with audience."

At present, Rachel an art director responsible for introducing the most advanced performance art from England to China. She is now on her way to Scotland, for the Edinburgh Festival. As she says, "you don't know what should be introduced to China unless you see it with your own eyes."

"Most Chinese think that England is a rather conservative and traditional country, but that is not true. Much of England's drama, dance and music is original and experimental. I am keen to introduce more to China so that Chinese people know what it is like now in England."

'Chinglish' Signs Targeted

By Chen Huiying

A total of 22 English signs around Beijing have so far been confirmed to contain mistakes, and are due to be corrected before Wednesday's opening of the Universiade. The anti-'Chinglish' campaign, which has attracted a great response from the general public, was launched on August 2. In the 2 weeks since then, more than a hundred calls have poured in, drawing attention to over 30 grammar and spelling mistakes on public signs. The departments and companies concerned have been instructed to correct the mistakes before the deadline.

One typical Chinglish example is "collecting money toilet", resulting from the literal translation of 'shoufei cesuo'. The sign is for a pay toilet at the Ming Tombs, and has no doubt caused much amusement for both foreigners and Chinese who can speak English.

Some mistakes are due to mistranslations of English words. In Chang'an Theater, even-numbered seats are marked "double", and odd ones "single", "Beijing Electronics City" has become "Beijing Elecatric Zong".

Other mistakes are simply misspellings; "Forbdden city" in the introduction at the south gate of Jingshan Park, and "Aeronauties and Astronauties" on a road sign for the Universiade, while at the World Park, "Manhattan" has become "Wanhatan".

Such mistakes have been on display for many years. The Universiade has drawn attention to the problem, but it is unlikely that all mistakes will be corrected within a month. Although Beijing is an international city, there are still no bilingual signs in many locations. To provide such signs, not only bilingual, but in correct English, will take some years.

To report a case of 'Chinglish', call the hotline, on 65192634.

Computer Viruses Rife in Beijing

By Sun Ming

With an infection rate of 80%, more computers in Beijing suffer from viruses than in any other city, according to the National Computer Virus Emergency Response Center.

The center also says that nowadays, most computer viruses are propagated via email

and the Internet, rather than disks or CDs. As a result, computer viruses now spread more rapidly and extensively than ever.

However, this situation has had the positive effect of promoting the development and marketing of anti-virus software, which in many shops, is the top-selling software.

A number of foreign enterprises are also seeking to capture a slice of this lucrative market. Trend Lab will invest several thousand yuan in its branch in China. "We'll have a cure for any new virus within 45 minutes of it first appearing," promises head technician Zhang Mingzheng.

"Hello! Thank you! Goodbye!"

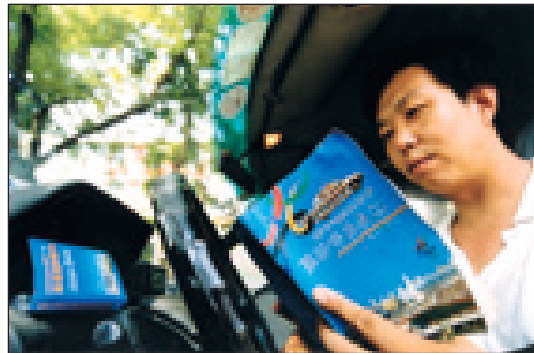
Taxi Drivers Prepare for Universiade

By Jiang Shuo/Li Shouen

When foreign visitors hail a taxi in Beijing these days, they shouldn't be surprised if the driver greets them in English. To help get taxi drivers ready for the 21st Universiade and the 2008 Olympiad, the Communications Bureau of Beijing Municipal Government made them sit an English test this month. Only those who passed the test and proved they could speak some basic English were eligible for a new license to drive a taxi.

Special text books and tapes consisting of basic oral English dialogues were published to help the drivers. Tian Xuesong, a taxi driver from Jingshichuang Taxi Company Ltd., said: "I listen to the tape for one hour every morning and evening." He smiled. "I didn't work so hard even I was learning English in my middle school!"

On August 9, Beijing Beiqi Municipal Taxi Group Co., and Live ABC Global Interactive English Teaching Group held a joint activity to help the taxi drivers learn English. Mr. "Bluestar" and his band from the United State encouraged drivers to "learn English interactively" with their music. They also handed out Live Interactive English VCDs to the drivers.



A taxi driver takes advantage of a quiet moment to brush up on his English.

Photo by Jiang Shuo

Li Guitang, a member of staff at the Beiqi Training Center, said the drivers were preparing diligently for the test on August 12 and 13.

One veteran taxi driver of the New Moon Associated Taxi Company Ltd. said: "I spend nearly all my spare time on English. You see, I'm over 40 years old, remembering new words is really a difficult job for me. I've heard that some drivers from other companies didn't pass the test, so I am a bit nervous now."

ANYONE FOR SECONDS?

When ordering too much food is not a good thing

By Su Wei

Food waste has increased steadily over recent years, to form 17 percent of the city's total garbage, according to the Beijing Waste Disposal Department.

Capital collectors pick up about 1,600 tons of slops and leftovers every day, mostly from restaurants of course.

Ling Xisheng, manager of Xi'an Lao Sun Beijing, says price is never an issue with staff-training programs. Waitresses are told to recommend dishes to avoid taste clashes and maintain the delicate balances prescribed by Chinese nutritional culture.

But the waitress has another important duty: she must remind clients of the serving size of each order. To fail to do so is to violate house rules and damage the restaurant's reputation.

But how do Beijingers like being told how much they can eat? Why do the fat cats insist on ordering too much food? Beijing Today sampled a broad range of opinions. And then asked for seconds.

Ling Xisheng, Manager of Xi'an Lao Sun's Restaurant, Beijing Branch:

It is true every restaurant wants to make a profit, but seeking profits cannot be the only goal. If so, such restaurants will lose clients in the highly competitive market.

We pay more attention to regular consumption, instead of the one-stop banquet. A big blowout is increasingly abandoned in these modern times.



But it is difficult to carry out the regulation thoroughly, not only in our restaurants, but throughout the whole service industry.

Eating has long been a Chinese tradition and its meaning is too deep. Every restaurant has its own operating strategy and it is unnecessary to ask the whole industry to be the same in their strategy.

Mr. Chen, Sales Manager of Roland Garros:

Over-ordering never happens in a western restaurant.

The clients just order what they like or what they want. There are different customs in different kinds of restaurants. Ordering too much may be a characteristic of Chinese restaurant, or its own peculiar style.

Zhang Lan, Managing Director of Yong He King:

Yong He King is a fast food chain restaurant, and there are

samples at front of the counter. Thus all the customers know the size and exact amount of each dish. If some customers are not clear about the amount, we will explain it to them clearly.

The serving size in Guangdong cuisine is different from the Northeast. If two persons order three dishes in a Guangdong restaurant, it is acceptable to order more. But for two persons in a Northeast restaurant, three dishes may be enough. Northeast cuisine is characterized by large portions.

Chen Yingnan, Managing Department of China National Pharmaceutical Industry Corp:

If it is only a family or friends get-together, we usually order our personal favorites. Under such conditions, there will be few dishes left untouched. But if I invite a client to dinner, though there are only two of us, I often order more than five dishes.

It's a kind of public relations exercise, which may benefit the future relationship between companies. Just imagine if I only ordered two or three dishes at low prices: how embarrassing! As for the leftovers, sometimes I ask our client if he would like to get a doggy bag, especially for the dishes that were barely touched. Most of time they just says, "thank you but no thank you." I think the takeout dishes might constitute a loss of face for them.

Ken Lee, Deputy General Manager, Beijing Ke Guan Property Development:

Beijingers do not order so much compared to several years before. Only the ones on public expenses order too much. I never think it is good to treat friends from far away or clients to too many dishes.

There are very few restaurants that list the serving

size of each dish in the menu.

A Client:

I do not think over-ordering is wasteful. Just like buying a bunch of flowers for more than 200 yuan. I buy the flowers because I like to buy them and I am happy to spend the money. I order too much just because I like to do it and I can afford the expense, or just because I hope to make my friends happy. It's my right.

Psychoanalysis Specialist, Beijing University:

In general, restaurants and clients and consumers have long been opposing parties. The purpose of restaurants is to make a profit, whatever their strategy. They are not cheating clients by not volunteering the serving size, only if they refuse to give the information when asked. In a sense, they have no obligation to inform customers about the serving size.

The educational background and thinking of each consumer will be different.

Fear of losing face may be one reason for over-ordering, but if the customer really likes doing this and is capable of doing it, well, nobody's forcing them. So the customer is ultimately responsible for ordering too much.

Eating has been a Chinese tradition and it has an important status symbol in politics, economics and culture. Eating has jumped beyond its simple, original meaning. If this trend continues, over-ordering may never disappear from our culture.

Photo by Su Wei

SOUND BITES

"For a person like myself who has been bullish on the second half all year, things are taking longer than I expected. There is still the expectation that we are going to move forward. But the question is, do we bounce along the bottom longer than we expected?"

"What worries me is that there are some hidden problems there that could break out if we (the United States) do not get going reasonably soon, and reasonably soon is by the end of this year."

"I have more worries about Asia than Europe. I think Europe may slow, but I do not think we are dealing with a hard landing as far as Europe is concerned."

--Joel Naroff, chief economist, Naroff Economic Advisors

"The issue lies at a difficult moral intersection, juxtaposing the need to protect life in all its phases with the prospect of saving and improving life in all its stages."

"As we go forward, I hope we'll always be guided by both intellect and heart, by both our capabilities and our conscience."

-- President George W. Bush, announcing his decision to permit limited stem cell research

"I am not a martyr and I want to see justice done. But I am doing what I must to protect the public's interest in a free press."

--Vanessa Leggett, 33, jailed on July 20 after refusing to hand over notes from interviews she had conducted with key figures in a Houston murder

By Andy / Ivy Zhang

北京青年报
BEIJING TODAY
今日北京

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College Kids Kindergarten

What Price Education?

By Wei Feng

Beijing Municipality recently announced a new 'cost price' fee structure for kindergartens. Accordingly, some kindergartens will charge families 800 yuan a month, or over 9,000 yuan a year. Many parents are now complaining that it costs more to send their child to kindergarten than to college or university.

Then, what are the actual economic conditions and costs for college students, and how do they view such a kindergarten fee? Beijing Youth Daily and Beijing Today engaged a market research company to conduct a survey on the issue.

Family is the main financial source of college students

According to the survey, over 90% of college students list "family" as their major or second major source of financial support. In addition, about 40% depended "mainly on themselves" to deal with any financial demands not covered by their family.

For 25% of students, their main financial source is from college scholarships, stipends and other subsidies. With the increases of college fees, such sources of income are indispensable for many students in overcoming financial problems and allowing them to finish schooling.

The sources of finances vary for college students according to their economic backgrounds. Students from well-off families tend to be fully reliant on their family for financial support. None of those surveyed needed to solve financial problems "on their own". For those from less well off families, about 50% depended financially to some degree on

their family, while 70% depended "mainly on themselves".

Part-time work or tutoring are the main options for supplementing income, although 42% said they only undertake such work during the holidays. 33% opted for part-time work, while 32% favored tutoring. In terms of sex, girl students generally sought tutoring work, while boys tended to work part time during the holidays.

Monthly consumption of college students is nearly 1,000

The surveyed students spend on average 965 yuan a month.

Tuition, and general living costs are the major expenses. The survey found that the annual expenses for these items are about 5,000 yuan. Tuition fees account for about 40% of the monthly total expenditure, as does living costs. These two expenses together account for 80% of the total expenses.

The monthly expenses in stationery is only 10%, while and recreational and sports activities cost roughly 50 yuan per month, or 6%.

For many students, Internet, traveling, communications and correspondence also account for part of their monthly consumption.

From the survey, female students tend to be thrifter than their male counterparts. On average, male students spend 70 yuan a month more than female ones.

Beepers, mobiles and PCs a part of college life

Nearly 40% of the surveyed students own beepers, 20% have mobile phones, and 43% own personal computers. This shows that while most are still financially dependant on their families, college students are a

high consumption group.

Students who are about to graduate are more likely to own beepers than those at lower levels (4%). Their main purpose in owning a beeper is to make themselves available to potential employers. Investment in job-hunting has become an important part of the whole expenditure.

Consumption level of students from Beijing is higher than that of students from elsewhere.

Students from other parts of China spend on average 970 yuan per month, while students from Beijing spend just over 1,000 yuan per month.

Otherwise, considering advantages of the locality and a part of living cost born by their families, the actual consumption of students of Beijing is higher. Students of Beijing also spend more on recreational and sports activities, 67.5% higher than ones outside Beijing.

As to the owning of beepers, mobiles and PCs, the percentage of local students is higher than non-local ones.

Beijingers better able to afford college fees

Are college costs too expensive? 71% of students surveyed agree with the statement "College is too expensive". Is the cost of college high because college students spend too much? To this question, 67% agreed that "It's true that the college cost is high, but the expenditure is on the necessities of daily life and studies". 75% agreed that "For most students, the cost is affordable".

Most surveyed students (64%) believe Beijingers are better able to afford the college expenses. 56% disagreed with the statement "The students of Beijing also think the college cost is a heavy burden to themselves

and their families".

9,000 yuan for kindergarten is unreasonable

College students believe Beijingers can easily afford this, however over 60% don't think it reasonable to pay 9,000 yuan to send a child to kindergarten, and 20% think it very unreasonable.

Though many surveyed students consider the new kindergarten fees irrational, most believe that Beijingers can "easily" afford the cost. However more students from Beijing considered it "difficult" to meet the cost, while most non-local students considered it "easy".

In fact, the survey indicates that the family economic situations of Beijing students are not much better than that of non-Beijing students. So why is there a different attitude? Probably because in Beijing, high-income residents have quite a high profile; (numerous private cars and up-market accommodation) leading to a false impression of the reality for the majority of ordinary residents. Also, the higher consumption level of the students from Beijing might create a false picture in the eyes of non-Beijing students.

According to the survey, the surveyed college students think most Beijingers are "fairly easily" able to pay the new kindergarten fees, despite the fact that the fees are widely regarded as "not very reasonable". Paying for education is accepted by most people, and paying the cost price shouldn't be opposed by Beijingers, either. But, must the cost be higher for a college student than for a child? Why is the cost so high? Parents are waiting for an answer. Education at all levels needs more of an input from families and society.

Stone Throwing Visitors Cause Baboon's Death

By Su Wei

A tragedy occurred at the Beijing Wild Animal Reserve last Sunday morning.

A group of tourists throwing stones into the baboon enclosure caused one of the animals to jump into the adjoining lion's cage, where it was subsequently mauled to death.

The visitors threw stones at the baboons despite the presence of an iron barricade between the tourists and the animals. One of the baboons took fright, and suddenly jumped over the 2-meter high glass barrier into the lion cage. The baboon was so angry it attacked a lioness standing nearby. The lioness ran away, but a male lion immediately jumped on the baboon, biting it on its neck and belly. The baboon died from the severe injuries.

According to Liu Xinchun, Vice President of the reserve, the baboons have got on well with the lions since the opening of the reserve. If the tourists had not thrown stones, frightening the baboon, the tragedy would not have happened. "It is difficult to prevent such behavior, because of the shortage of staff in the reserve". He also pointed out that in the future, more safety equipment is to be installed, and tourist management will be enhanced.

Urban Park Offers Sanctuary for Wildlife

By Li Shouen

Beijing Wildlife Rescue and Conservation Center Liuyin Park Branch, the first such center to be set up in an urban area in China, opened last Saturday.

At present, the center is fostering some 40 birds and animals, according to Zhang Shixiong, vice-director of the information office of Liuyin Park. Some of them may return to their natural habitat one day, while others may need to remain in the center, having lost their ability to readapt to life in the wild.

"The former center was in Fengtai District, far from the center of town", said Li Yujing, "The Beijing Wildlife Conservation Association is not a convenient location for people to seek help for wildlife. Now we can broaden our rescue and conservation activities, with more residents visiting the center and actually participating in the work."

Wei Zhongjie, vice-director of the center, and one of the veterinarians looking after the wildlife, says almost every one of the creatures there has a sad story. One little monkey, he said, was only three months old when it was brought to the center. It was seriously ill and in a state of shock. Wei immediately conducted a mouth-to-mouth artificial respiration. Half an hour passed, and the little life was saved. Now it gets along very well with him. Wei hopes he may send it back to the wild after some retraining.

Hundreds of local residents visited the center on the first day. One two-year-old girl greeted the monkeys, saying: "How are you, little monkeys?" Her father said it is important for citizens to learn more about wildlife and how to help and conserve them. A center like this will help a lot.

"But I know it won't be easy," says Zhang Shixiong, "Some residents around the park are against us, protesting that the center occupies their exercising area, while others are afraid the animals will give off a foul smell or make too much noise."

Residents finding lost or injured wildlife can call 64265996, or take them directly to the park, which is located at 8 Huangshi Dajie, Dongcheng District.

Photo by Li Shouen



Wei Zhongjie gets on well with the monkeys

By Ivy Zhang

The Philip Hayden Foundation (PHF) was registered as a non-profit organization in the US in 1994 with a mission to help Chinese children with special needs. In 1995, it established an office at the Beijing Lufthansa Center.

In 1996, PHF started funding operations to help kids with cleft lips. Since that time, over 2,000 operations have been performed using Chinese doctors and hospitals. PHF has formed a partnership with the China Charity Federation, China Adoption Center and other Chinese government organs. They have performed over 307 operations on orphaned kids in Henan province and there will be 70 more this year.

In July 1998, PHF launched its foster home project in Langfang, Hebei province and formed a long-term partnership with the Tianjin Children's Welfare Institute. A total of 13 kids from the foster home have been adopted by foreign families and 21 children aged below 3 years are now living there.

From adoption to PHF

Tim Baker, 46, is PHF Director. He first came to China with his wife and three daughters in 1991, teaching English in north east China, then in Beijing.

While visiting orphanages in Tianjin and Guiyang in 1991, Baker and his wife fell in love with the children there. "We contacted our friends in Guiyang and told them we wanted to adopt a baby they were taking care of," Baker said, "So we adopted our first child - my daughter Esther of five months old. Later we adopted twin baby boys in 1997." Esther, according to Baker, means "star". And she is like a star, shining over the Bakers' life.

People asked Baker why not adopt a son, since they already had three daughters. He told them it really doesn't matter, a boy or a girl, he just wants to help one of those kids. For Esther too, she really blessed Baker's family. "She helped us too. She made us feel much closer than ever to the Chinese people. At that point, we thought we'll end up staying in China forever as teachers." After adopting Esther, the couple continued to do volunteer work at Tianjin Orphanage and they decided to start an organization in Beijing to help more kids like Esther.

Philip Hayden was one of Baker's colleagues at Beijing Aeronautic University. In November, 1994, Philip and Baker were in Changchun visiting some of their colleagues there. On their way back to Beijing by train, Philip suffered a heart attack and died. He was just 28 years old.

Baker and his wife were shocked at Phillips untimely death. At that time, the couple were setting up their organization to help orphans in China, and they decided to name it after him, in memory of his deep love for China. Baker registered the non-profit organization in the US and began fund raising. In the first year, they raised about \$30,000. Since that time over a million dollars has been raised.

Foster Home Established

After giving up teaching in 1995 to concentrate full-time on the foundation, the Bakers moved to Langfang in Hebei province, 2 hours drive from Beijing, out of

consideration of the lower cost of living there than in Beijing.

Baker bought his house from a local businessman, Zhao Guangcai. When Zhao found that one of Baker's kids was an adopted Chinese orphan, they hit it off very well together. He told Baker that if there was anything he could do to help, just to let him know. Baker replied if he could only give them a house, they could use it to provide a home for orphans, and Zhao said "OK".

After three years' preparation, the foster home opened in July 1998 with 3 children. Six months later, Zhao came to inspect the home. When he saw the kids playing there, he was so moved, he told Baker he would give him a second house.

Staffed by a doctor from Tianjin orphanage, as well as other local doctors, nurses, workers and volunteers, the foster home is running successfully. Up to now, 13 kids from the home have been adopted by foreign families and 21 children are living there now.

Coming to the foster home are special needs kids with special medical problems; cleft lips, heart problems, burns, and so on. For some of the kids who needed special medical treatment, the foundation partnered with the U.S.' North Western Airlines who provided free tickets, to send them to the U.S. So far, 5 or 6 kids have been sent to the States already. Another little girl who has a severe burn on her leg will be sent to a hospital in Boston, hopefully next month.

Call for help from international community

Asked about plans for the future, Baker says they want to set up more such foster homes and form partnerships with orphanages, in order to get more children out of the crowded institutions. He says they just want to take some of the pressure off the children by putting them into a nice environment and, hopefully, preparing them for adoption, either by people from China or from other places.

To expand, to get more volunteers involved, to look for more ways to help children and to do more fund raising are the Foundation's next steps.

Apart from the cleft lip operations and foster home project, Baker and his team have started other projects to help kids, collecting used clothing, washing machines, refrigerators, anything that a foreigners living in Beijing might donate before returning home.

"Beijing has a big foreign population and these people want to help too," says Baker, "Most of them are making a pretty good living. They came to China, they make money living in China and they should give something back too to those who are less fortunate."

Baker tells about one little girl who was in hospital for nearly a month, with high fever and convulsions. It cost about 16,000 yuan to keep her in hospital that long. Donations are essential, he stresses, not only for covering medical bills, but for food and clothing, and even for taking the children to play in the parks.



An American dad and kids at foster home

ALL FOR CHILDREN

"She is the focus of our life" - Letters from adopting families

Linda Smith, Single, American

I am not married, and live in a house I own in Cleveland, Ohio. I wanted to adopt a child from China because I think Chinese people have good dispositions and a very rich heritage to be proud of. I am blessed to have a daughter whose heritage is Chinese.

It took 8 months for me to complete. When the papers were ready they were sent to the Chinese Center of Adoption Affairs in Beijing. After receiving the paperwork, the CCAA matches the prospective parents up with a child.

The adoption process took about 10 days

to complete in China. I met my daughter in Changsha, Hunan. She was in the Welfare Institute of Chenzhou, Hunan. The Institute director and some caregivers brought the babies to Changsha. What a wonderful day that was for me! I was with six other families who were adopting at the same time.

My daughter, Amanda, will have many opportunities to fulfill her dreams. A fund has been set up for her college education. She will be taught to honor her birth parents and to know of her heritage. I will teach her some of the Mandarin language and we will celebrate Chinese holidays.

Eileen Stramaglia, Married, Chinese

I am Chinese and my husband Steve is of German and Italian decent. We adopted our daughter in August 1997 when she was one year old. It's hard to imagine that she soon will be celebrating her 5th birthday.

It did take quite a while to gather all of the information we needed to submit in our dossier to China. These included original copies of our birth certificates, marriage certificate and other records. We also had to have a home study written by a social worker, which took time to schedule and involved a number of visits. We needed reference letters written by our friends, updated medical history and quite a few other documents. Once these were all assembled our agency put them together and sent them to China on our behalf. Then it was a matter of just waiting.

We finally got our referral for our daughter in June 1997, approximately 18 months after we had submitted our paperwork. We traveled to China in August 1997 and stayed for almost 2 weeks. We did not have a choice in who our daughter was going to be, but once we saw her picture, we knew she was the perfect one. Our trip to China went very smoothly. Our daughter was obviously very well taken care of in the orphanage.

Our daughter is beautiful. She is full of life and she is a very happy child, very curious, loves to learn and laughs all the time. She is the focus of our life. We cannot imagine life without her. We are in the process of adopting our second daughter from China. Our daughter is very excited about having a sister.

Interview



Businessman Contributes Houses

Zhao Guangcai is a successful Chinese business man who contributed two houses in Oriental Garden, Langfang, to the foster home run by the Philip Hayden Foundation.

Beijing Today: Could you tell us a little about yourself?

Zhao Guangcai: I'm a local person with 3 children. I set up my own business in the U.S. six years ago. I just fly back and forth between the U.S. and China to develop the business. From 1994 to 1995, I personally invested and built the Oriental Garden in Langfang, my hometown.

How did you first meet Tim Baker?

We didn't know each other until he came to Oriental Garden to buy a house for his own use in 1995. We discussed the selling price and signed the sales contract. Afterward, when chatting, he told me that he had adopted a Chinese girl, an orphan, from Guizhou province. Hearing that, I gave him a 20% discount on his house, even below the cost.

What about the houses you contributed to the foundation?

At that time, Baker had not yet initiated the foster home project. He shared his ideas about fostering Chinese orphans and the difficulties to find a right place. Then I told him, if you wanted to foster Chinese children for China's welfare cause, I would give you one house, provided that the house was not used for any other purposes. Later I found that one house was too crowded for 10 or more children, then I gave him another one. If the foster home expands, I can give him another 6 empty houses.

Why would you do that?

As Chinese, when we see foreigners helping us foster our Chinese children, I feel we should do something as well. I did nothing but provided them with a house. Baker and his team do much more in taking care of all the children. I hope more organizations and individuals from home and abroad can work for this cause. If you come to the foster home, you'll find most of the kids there have physical problems. They really need help.

Do you often go back to visit the children there?

Yes. I do. It's a joy to see them. You know, all the kids there call me Dad. When you are troubled with something and sit among the children, it's a great joy to have your arms pulled by one, cheeks kissed by another and hear them call you Dad.

What impressed you most about the home?

Love. Baker and Mike's (Baker is the director of the foster home program and Mike, another American, manages the home) love towards the children. They treat the kids quite well. In fact, I did have doubts about their motives at first, speculating that they might sell these children. I even checked with the director of Tianjin orphanage. Then I found that they are really nice guys.

Ivy Zhang



Tim Baker and family, with one of the babies from the home.

Photos by Ivy Zhang



Casually observing his production



Pulling the stage screen is also the director's job.



By Xiao Xia

Hair in a ponytail, dark beard, strong body and mature expression distinguish Zhou Wenhong from the young, fashionable actors and actresses of the drama *Negative*. After cheering up the whole team before they went on stage, Wenhong quietly stood beside the audience awaiting the rise of the music. As a director, he watches his production every day in a critical way and makes little changes from time to time.

Zhou Wenhong looks much older than he really is. As Yang Ting, an actress friend of his joked, "from 18, Wenhong has always looked as if he is 40 years old." As a matter of fact, Wenhong is only 27 years old and has been active in the theater circles for 8 years. In his dramatic career, Che Guevara is the most successful character Wenhong acted.

A Born Actor

Wenhong believes he is a born actor. "At middle school, I was already involved in art creation." Wenhong recalled his young life happily: "I even won a top award of a literary reciting competition in my hometown,

ger than him, his brother always regarded the 19-year-old boy as a kid. Wenhong was very upset by his brother's attitude.

That year, a little quarrel led to a severe fight. Having received professional boxing training, Wenhong easily gave his brother 5 punches. Looking at the blood flowing down his brother's face, Wenhong was shocked.

Later he had a nightmare. The following morning, Wenhong wrote a song from the dream for his brother. He wrote: Brother, I dreamed you were beaten, you were bleeding. I couldn't help you. You seemed so far from me and you seemed so close to me.... At the following family get-together, the song drew tears from all the family members.

"Now my brother and I love each other deeply," Wenhong said in a sweet voice. "Sometimes I seem like an elder brother," he laughed.

Triumph of Will Over Pain

After graduation in 1997, Wenhong was assigned to Hebei province. Not staying long, Wenhong went back to his Alma Mater. "The dormitory I had lived in for 4 years was empty. For the first time, I felt like I was floating and couldn't find my destiny," Wenhong seemed to be moved by himself when recalling that hard period.

The second day he arrived in Beijing, Wenhong dramatically encountered Tian Qinxin, also a famous drama director, and joined Tian's drama team for *Broken Wrist*.

"I was really going through a hard time, especially in financial terms," Wenhong said. In those days, Wenhong had to ride from Dongzhimen to Jiuxianqiao almost every day. The hour ride almost exhausted Wenhong, even though he was quite strong. At that time, everyone in the team had some transport allowance, but not much. Wenhong had to save for several days before he could take a taxi, which made him quite happy.

From 1998, Wenhong started his first drama, *the Mountain Kids*, and in 1999 met his Waterloo for the first time. "That's the only failure!" The man looked strong and confident. In 1999, Wenhong's second drama *Face to Face, Door to Door* was fell victim to a financial crisis. He couldn't even afford the travel costs to go back home for Spring Festival. "It was my friend's parents who lent me 500 yuan before I could go home," said Wenhong.

Arriving home, Wenhong was told that his father, a college professor, was diagnosed with lung-cancer at the local hospital. Even at such a hard time, Wenhong still followed his will and headed for Beijing again a few days later. He believed that he could repay his parents' love and support. Things turned out to be better in the spring. The drama *Mountain Kids* was on stage again and the Beijing hospital proved the diagnosis of lung-cancer to be a false alert.

Wenhong harnessed his strong will into sports training from the age of 12. From primary school, Wenhong participated in the local soccer team; now most of his fellows have at one time been professional players. "I had endured almost all the physical suffering a man can experience," Wenhong said. He joked that if he ever tired of drama, he could still be a good soccer player.

Follow Che Guevara

Among all the dramas Wenhong took part in, *Che Guevara*, which was staged in 2000, made the strongest impression on him. "I am amazingly like Che in spirit," Wenhong said. Wenhong is brave enough to stop anything he believes to be evil. "If I was in Che's situation, I would follow his steps."

As a teenager in Baotou, Wenhong once punched a man in public. He witnessed a man beating his mother in the street. The tears of the old woman flooded under the feet of her son. Fire burned in the breast of Wenhong. He got off his bike and directly gave the rude man a bloody lesson. Picking the old woman up, Wenhong told the evil son that if he dared to abuse his mother again, he would definitely be in for another smack. "I think if Che Guevara had been on the spot, for sure he would have helped the old woman," said Wenhong. "But now I would reason with the son first," Wenhong laughed as a fully mature man.

"These years, some basic life principles we had insisted upon are in doubt. The drama Che Guevara made me more confident of the spirit and principle of Guevara." Wenhong said emotionally, "Che's belief in justice is dying. As an artist, what we have to do is to recall these principles in people's hearts."

Wenhong is regarded as a generous and kind man in theatre circles. Yuan Hong, the producer of *Negative* and *Che Guevara* said, "Wenhong is really a good man, a real good man."

Talking about his hopes, Wenhong first spoke of his principle. "Give each other a hand, and everybody will live better. As a man, I could endure more. If I could make my fellows live better, I would be happy." Wenhong hopes that if he decides to help people, there will be less financial or social difficulties in the future.



Cheering the team up

Photos by Jia Ting

Following in The Steps Of Che

Baotou, in the early 1990s." Baotou is a small city in the southern part of Inner Mongolia, North China, famous for its coal mines.

When Wenhong first stepped into the world of theatre he was just 19 years old. That year, he started his theatre exercises under the direction of Mr. Shi Lei, a famous drama director. "I wore a pair of large short pants to meet Mr. Shi for the first time, and the director told me that since actors were in short supply, I might be in with a chance." As it happened, the young boy turned out to be a drama genius and was accepted by his dreamland, the Central Theatre Institute in Beijing, in 1993.

"The characters I acted at the institute were 100% successful." Wenhong said with confidence sparkling in his eyes, "I observed common people in daily life. I followed them for days; I talked with them and even recorded their voices. I analyzed their behavior and voices and was moved by their lives."

One day, the young college student was observing street vendors as usual at Di'anmen. Most of the street vendors were laid-off workers. They would place a patch of cloth on the ground and put their few goods on it. Among them, Wenhong noticed a strange middle-aged man, with a large gauze mask on his face. The day was not that cold, and the use of the mask was obviously to avoid recognition. After a long talk, the man told Wenhong that he was a teacher but kept secret why he had to be a street vender.

Later, the young daughter of the teacher unveiled the whole story to Wenhong. The mother was ill and hospitalized. The father could not afford the high expenses by only relying on the income from school. He had to support his family by selling things in his spare time, while the young daughter shouldered all the housework. "I was moved by the man," said Wenhong in a deep tone, "As a teacher, he had to save his dignity and face the changes of society, he had to meet the challenge of life himself."

Brotherly Love

Talking about the thing he regretted most, Wenhong gave an astonishing answer. "I hit my brother." Wenhong is the youngest of the three boys in his family. His second brother is 5 years older than him. Although Wenhong was taller and stron-

Wenhong in the drama
of Che Guevara

Photo by Li Yan

CHILD-LIKE Power Behind Beijing Opera

By Miao Yajie

Most foreigners coming to Beijing will go to see Beijing opera at least once. Most short-term visitors, however, go to theaters like the Liyuan Theater at Qianmen Hotel or Huguang Guild Theater. The daily performances there are restricted to several highlights, in which the singing part has been rearranged to a minimum and acrobatics to the maximum. The opera circles consider this sort of performance as "tourist" opera" providing foreigners with a chance to get close to Beijing opera, but definitely nowhere near the essence of it.

Beijing opera is derived from local operas in Hubei and Anhui two centuries ago, later undergoing dramatic changes through the early artists of several generations, forming its own independent, complete style and reaching its prime at the beginning of the 20th century. It has been entitled the "national quintessence", the most representative opera of China, that finally took the place of Kunqu opera.

In Chinese eyes, stylized Beijing opera is abundant with things that are worth careful study. The stylized singing, acting, recitation and acrobatics on stage along with the facial make-up, costumes, and stage décor best demonstrate the Chi-

nese concepts of beauty. The repertoire of Beijing opera covers all the virtues the Chinese worshipped: loyalty, filial piety, kindness, righteousness, propriety, wisdom and credibility. Stories to be staged are mostly already well known to the public through literature and other forms of folk art. Thus there is a saying: when watching Beijing opera, a familiar one is the first choice. It doesn't mean that the story or plot is not important; it just implies that the way the actor or actress performs, how he or she sings, is where the charisma lies.

Like people's zeal towards the high "C" in western opera, a resonant voice is also crucial to win the audience in Beijing



Yu Kuizhi on Stage
Photos by Chen Shuyi

opera. Conveying emotions as opposed to simply singing out loud is just as important in Beijing Opera however, if not more so. Thus, if one could not be a Pavarotti, he could still be a Carreras. In the first half of the 20th century, there were "Four Top Actors for Male Roles" and "Four Top Actors for Female Roles". The condition of their voices was different, but they knew how to exploit their advantages to the full, each of them had his tour de force to attract the fans. The form of the melody should follow the character of the role, the development of the story.

The three other elements on stages comply with the same rules. Acting, recitation and acrobatics should not be separated themselves from the story. According to noted opera critic Zhou Huan, "if the singing, acting, recitation and acrobatics separate from the story and the character, the actor or actress only shows off his or her skills, then Beijing opera could not be called an art."

The most common décor in Beijing opera is one table and two chairs. One table and two chairs represent everything. The principle used here can be traced to the same origin in Chinese traditional paintings. It is fastidious about space. A good painting should leave space in proper proportions, as should the stage. The décor of

Beijing opera is all on the actor or the actress. When the actor or actress enters, the décor is on; when he or she exits, the décor goes with them. The audience is used to imagining green hills and blue waters, combat fields, royal courts, and ordinary people's yards, since the roles would tell them where they are and what they are doing.

In the 90's Hollywood box office smash "Pretty Woman", Richard Gere said to Julia Roberts about opera, "People's reaction to opera the first time they see it is very dramatic. People love it or they hate it. If they love it, they will love it for life; if they don't, they might learn to appreciate it, but it will never be part of their soul." People's reaction to Beijing opera is quite similar to this.

The hottest female writer in 1940's Shanghai, Eileen Chang, wrote an article in English to introduce Beijing opera to foreigners. Time changed, but her comments are still worth reviewing. "There is a kind of child-like power in Beijing opera which fits our inner desires." If we have a wild guess about the c2onnotation of "children's power", the simple, direct display of beauty and courtesy on stage is indescribably powerful, which provides the Chinese a perfect setting to identify their cultural roots.

Passing on The Torches of Civilization

By Miao Yajie

The National Library was crowded on this sweltering Sunday morning, 12 August, readers were everywhere, under the trees outside, in the lobby, in the small bookstore to the right of the lobby, reading the bulletins, in the reading rooms. Through a long, quiet corridor to the reading room of the Rare Book Department, more than 50 people were intensively listening to a lecture. The lecturer was Shu Yi, curator of the Contemporary Literature Museum and expert on Lao She's works. Shu Yi's father Lao She (1899-1966) was one of the most talented contemporary writers. The topic of the lecture was about the humanism in Lao She's works.

This is the 12th lecture hosted by The Classic Culture Promotion Center of the National Library. The series of lectures, starting from March, are sponsored by the National Institutions Committee for Sifting Ancient Books. The scholars and experts on Chinese culture, codes and records are invited to deliver special lectures every Sunday for free. Those who had been on the rostrum of the National Library include: 86-year-old Zhu Jiajin, a senior researcher at the Palace Museum for over half a century, who is also regarded as a "national treasure" by academia; Russian Sinologist, Boris L. Riftin; Jin Weinuo, expert on the art of the Dunhuang Caves; and other well-established researchers from different renowned institutions.

Established in March this year, The Classic Culture Promotion Center aims at preserving the ancient codes and records, to foster the off-spring of Chinese culture, and to pass on the torch of civilization from generation to generation.

"We wish to make the lecture more popular among readers, we wish to invite more scholars and experts to come here. But our wishes are restrained by limited funds. The center is contacting other foundations at the moment. If an agreement is to be reached,

the center will organize more activities and lectures," said Hong Jing, coordinator of the center.

As part of its cultural promotion program, another activity sponsored by the center is the "Classics Recital Program for Children", a cooperative project with another organization, Instruction Center for Children Reciting Classics in Beijing.

As suggested in its proposal issued in January, classics at all times and in all countries are the source of human wisdom. To recite these classics is an important path to develop potential, to learn language, to enhance cultivation, and to open the gates of wisdom for children.

The classics used in the program include *The Great Learning*, *the Doctrine of the Mean*, *the Analects of Confucius*, *Mencius* and *The Book of Songs*, poems of the Tang Dynasty, poetry of the Song Dynasty, along with other Chinese classics. The books for kids are all unabridged versions with Pinyin. Children are not asked to understand the meaning of the books, but led by the teachers to recite all the books line by line, and paragraph by paragraph.

The recital program has been a success so far. People have recognized the imperceptible influence of the classics. "In the Beijing area alone, about 10 thousand pupils have participated in the program, and several millions of children on the Chinese mainland, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and other countries worldwide including Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, and the United States have been involved," said Feng Zhe, from the instruction center.

As for the Saturday morning class at the National Library, "Kids are keen to outdo others, every week I found them consciously leaping ahead of my schedule. Their parents say that their enthusiasm for books has increased after taking the program," said Jin Rui, a teacher of the recital class at the National Library.



Professor Jin Weinuo on Dunhuang Art
Photo provided by Rare Book Dept.

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Writing From Youngsters

Never Read Such Interesting Story As Growing Up

by Chen Chen

When I was 11 or 12 years old, more or less the age of the author of *Growing Up*, I was determined to be a writer. My mother, a village woman, had no objection to my aspiration. She only said that, "No matter what you do, you must have something to fill your stomach." Her words gave me a false impression and made me think that novel writing was merely a rice bowl. My vulgar and utilitarian opinion and shortsightedness seriously hindered the course of my growing up to be a writer. When I was reading *Growing Up*, I came up with three ideas:

First, the novel must have been written by Wang Shuo. There is no way for me to believe the author is a 12-year-old girl by the name of Jiang Fangzhou. So I called Wang Shuo, who behaved in a noisy, gay, and boisterous manner and spoke sarcastically on the other end of the phone, "You just envy the girl author." I thought about what he said and found it to be correct. When I dreamed of becoming a writer in my childhood, the only thing I could write was inspired from Lei Feng and Huang Jiguang. It was far from a qualification to compose novels.

Second, I thought I had not matured yet, or that I had over-matured. I began to be weak and decayed. In the past 20 years or more, I have failed to observe as much humor as a witless young girl did. What I have said and written are not closely related to life. As a matter of fact, I liked the girl sharing the same table with me in school and thought of writing a love letter to her. But the letter I wrote turned out to be a pledge to Chairman Mao. I discussed with other boys who was the girl with the biggest breasts. When I wrote down our discussions on paper, the topics turned out to be how to help and learn from one another. It is strange that a person like me, who is divorced from life and is dishonest, can become a writer. From now on, I am determined to be a deputy of the National People's Congress.

Third, fortunately I do not have the complex of Rosetta. She is a lovely girl. Although she is younger than Rosetta, she is so experienced and steady that her craftiness is almost lovable. The little evil spirit is the three words better than "a talented girl" in describing her capability of mocking up life and putting down in writing. If I were single ten years later, I would try to fall in love with her. After I carefully read the excellent description of love in her novel, I extracted a the following passage:

"Once men get married, they prefer to be stripped to the waist relaxing in a cool place outside after five years of marriage. I have my standards in looking for a boyfriend. He must be as rich as Bill Gates, as handsome as the movie star Zhou Runfa, as romantic as Leonard, and as powerful as Viagra (I do not want to explain it here)."

Jesus, it seems it will take the time for tens of thousands of meals before I can find a girlfriend like that, to say nothing of the dream of becoming a writer. Maybe it is out of her intention to console the boy students that the girl author listed ten secrets of flirting with girls in a separate chapter. Want to know? Then go to the bookstore and pick a copy of her book.

In fact, it does not matter if you have grown up or not. The point is you will love it. The purpose of my writing this article, in fact, is to urge you to buy a copy of *Growing Up*. Go quickly. I love it.

A Secret Book on Flirting with Girls (Abridged)

by Jiang Fangzhou

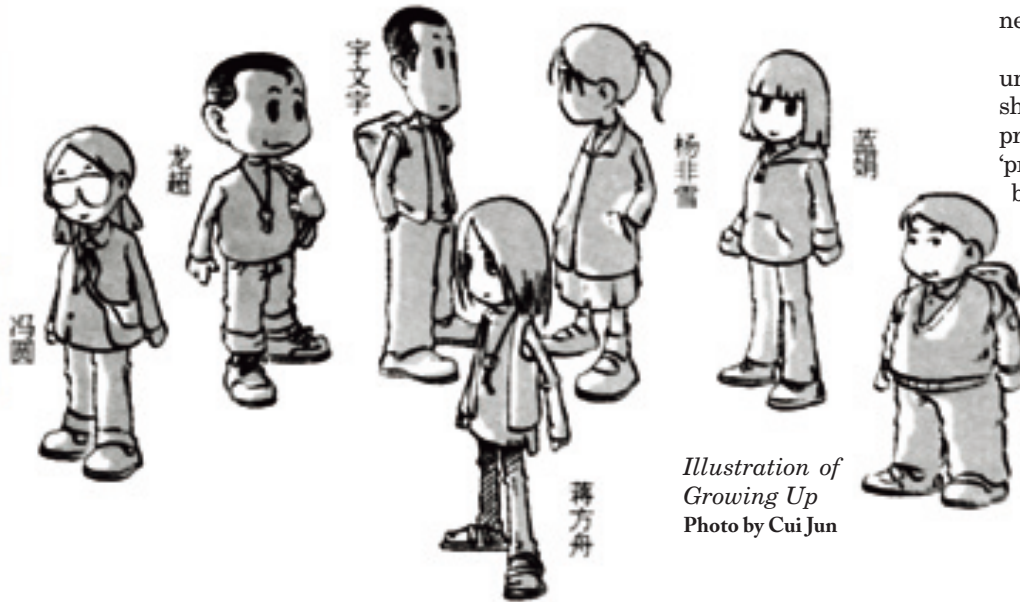


Illustration of *Growing Up*
Photo by Cui Jun

The boys in our class have got tired of living. They talked about composing *A Book on Flirting with Girls*. I was not surprised to hear that. There are only a few girl students in our class. Things are valued because of their rarity. It turned out that the initiator is the ugliest boy in the class, who himself claims to be handsome.

There was nothing for me to do after class. So I looked around, and, to my surprise, I found a "notebook" lying on each of the boys' tables. Even Long Chao, a boy who is always short of paper for preparing math exercises, had a piece of paper stained with dirty fingerprints and wrote "Notebook" on it. There were a few of them engrossed in composing the "Secret Book" in the classroom. Most of the boys were out skipping with the girls. My analysis was that those out with the girls might follow the teacher's instruction: "Practice is necessary before anything can be done." It

might be part of their plan to "flirt with the girls."

I was sure that there was nothing new in their so-called "Secret Book." It was just as I expected that each of the "notebooks" carried a well-known saying.

The well-known saying was followed by questions to be pondered. The questions were written closely together, making for difficult reading, just like the face of a dead body with flesh and blood flying in all directions in an aeroplane crash. They were, however, interesting. Let me share some of the questions with you chivalrous experts:

1. What is the difference between flirting with a girl and being flirted with?
2. Think carefully whether you flirted with your own girl.
3. What other ways do you know to flirt with girls? Exchanges of experience are hereby suggested.
4. Manage your girl well and

take the initiative to introduce her to the elders at home.

5. Often check your domestic girl and mend or replace her as soon as you find any damage.

6. Make a girl according to the reference diagram, or your own design.

7. How to do a good job of your girl's hygiene?

8. Take the initiative to participate in the manual labor of flirting with a girl at home everyday.

9. Keep one or two girls and observe their habits and characteristics.

10. Write down what you have learned in flirting with girls.

The skin on their faces is thicker than the soles of their feet. They have a limited imagination. They copied the "questions and practices" from the school's Guide to Manual Labor. The "girls" they referred to are clothes, rabbits, electric appliances, and sandals. I do not believe they have the guts to make, mend, or replace girls.

A newspaper carries a piece of news 1,000 years later:

"Archaeologists in China have unearthed a 'notebook' of only one sheet of paper with dirty fingerprints. Written on the paper were 'precious words' and questions to be pondered. Unfortunately, nobody could understand, due to limited translation skills."

About Talents in Literary Writing

by Shang Ailan
(Mother of Jiang Fangzhou)

Early-matured apples sell well. Children would mature very fast if they were given the right to know. This is exactly how it is.

Parents often act like filters for their children. They filter water, discard the dregs behind the children, and give filtered, pure water to them. As a matter of fact, there are no parents who oppose their children's coming into contact with the world. They only try to prevent their chil-

dren from seeing ugliness, darkness, sexual love, and death. However, children who know a world with only flowers and sunshine do not know the real world, and will make big errors of judgment.

Should children have the right to know, a full right to the real world? Why have we parents been accustomed to concealing the facts and our points of view from our children? Is education towards a late maturity a projectile from an education of ignoring and enslaving? Why should we deliberately hold back the pace of chil-

dren's maturing? Why should we scold the attention they pay to the world of grown-ups? What are we afraid of, after all?

We call on children to participate in society but, on the other hand, we are trying instinctively to keep them out of society. As our appeal runs high, we provide them with imitations or leftover bits and pieces for them to play casually with lest they make a mess of the real thing. Once children enter the realm of the grown-ups, we cry out in alarm: "...You are still so young. Is this good for you kids?"

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Photo by Zhang Jizhou

Chinese Cartoons

To Tune Up Their Act

By Zhu Lin / Zhang Jing

Children and adults enjoyed a feast of cartoons as they stepped into the Beijing Exhibition Hall from August 8 to 12 in the Third Beijing International Cartoon Exhibition. Around 50 cartoons from 15 countries presented their characters and animations.

Chinese cartoons made a good show at the exhibition. Ancient characters like Guan Yu from the classic canon "Three Kingdoms" caught the audience's eyes with his modern humor. CCTV seized the chance to display its upcoming cartoon series, handing out a great number of pamphlets. Children are always the faithful fans of TV cartoons. Born in the 80's, it is hard for one to forget about how beautiful and innocent the Japanese "Fairy Flower" was. Children born in the 90's bind their imagination with computer games and all kinds of cartoon programs.



Zhang Weihua, a nine-year-old boy said, "As long as it is cartoon, I enjoy watching it." According to the sponsor of the exhibition, after visiting the exhibition once, many children said, "I want to come again!"

But looking carefully at the Chinese cartoon characters, it's easy to see the cracks. Xu Ge, a cartoon fan and also a college student majoring in animation production voiced her criticism, especially for "Blue Mouse and Big-Face Cat" which CCTV is pretty proud of. "The cat and mouse in it looked dull, it is too roughly done." She admired

the huge funds the American producers put into the cartoons, but also pointed out that it wasn't solely a matter of money. Guo Tong, an art teacher at Yuying High School, agreed. He said, "In the 1980s, there were many beautifully made Chinese cartoons that didn't cost much money. I don't think the producers and artists are as attentive as those in the past." The longest cartoon in the world, "3000 Questions by the Blue Cat" produced in Shanghai, will come out on television in September. Maybe, however, it is not length that counts.

The problem is, Chinese cartoons only target children, while many foreign cartoons are also made for adults, like the American Satire "The Simpsons". In addition, there are few affiliated products like toys, CDs, clothes or watches featuring Chinese cartoon characters. In other countries, affiliated products traditionally bring out 90% of a cartoon show's profit.

Hopefully, the newly-made "Crazy for Singing" from Shanghai will bring new energy to the Chinese cartoon scene. It followed the Japanese style all the way from features to marketing. More than 20 affiliated pieces of merchandise are on sale. All in all, animation makers are searching for the right way to build China's own cartoon industry.



Guitar Finally Has Its Public

By Zhu Lin

"I'm very satisfied with the concert and the box office," said guitarist Wang Zhen in excitement. Wang and his Beijing Guitar Trio gave a successful concert at the Beijing Concert Hall on August 10. Young couples in the audience enjoyed the concert hand in hand, coloring their romance with a touch of music.

When Wang came back from the Conservatorio Granolles of Barcelona, few guitar concerts were held in 1997. Although playing guitar had become a symbol of cool among youngsters, the romantic wind of guitar music didn't blow as far as public concert halls. Wang lit up people's



Photo provided by Wang Zhen

passion for guitar by concerts around China. At the same time, he set up the Beijing Guitar Trio.

On the stages of Chengdu, Shenzhen and Kunming, it was Wang who held the first formal guitar concert. "What surprised me a little was that there were so many people who loved guitar in those cities," he said, "I'm sure guitar concerts have a large market. A great number of people are waiting for wonderful guitar concerts."

With a rich repertoire, he and the Beijing Guitar Trio have been very active in the performing market in recent years.

Watch Out for Macbeth

By Hu Xiaoli

Shakespeare's *Macbeth* will illuminate Beijing's stage this summer. The Anglian Shakespeare Company, from the birthplace of Shakespeare, will present this most compact tragedy during August 24 to 26 at the China Children Theatre.

Following the *Mill on the Floss* performed by the outstanding British Shared Experience Theatre Company a month ago, foreign classics appearing on Chinese stages in the original seem to be a positive trend. This century is a great and active

time for culture exchanges. The distance and obstacles of geographic location and language are less important now. This has been proved by the Chinese audience's warm reaction to English language dramas recently.

According to Lin Zhao-hua, a well-known drama director in China, it is a great contribution for China Performing Arts Agency (CPAA) to introduce the original classic dramas to Chinese audiences and directors, "But at the same time," he said, "we are thinking about how to bring our dramas to foreign countries."



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A Wonderland of Antique Clocks

By Li Dan

This is a tiny stall packed with a variety of antique timepieces in Panjiayuan Flea Market. The owner, Hou Shan, is a well-known figure in timepiece collecting circles. Stepping into his no more than 8-square-meter room, you will find yourself in a veritable museum of clocks and watches. Whenever customers enter his store, he likes to introduce his treasures by moving the striking hands and tightening the springs, allowing the clocks and watches to sing their cheerful and melodious songs. The liveliest scene occurs every hour, when all the clocks jingle out one after another, the time when Hou most enjoys himself.

Among Hou's timepieces, there are American striking clocks, a German church clock, a Roman clock tower, a French 400-day mini desk clock (it can run for 400 days on one winding, and costs about 3000 yuan). There are also Japanese owl-like wall clocks and English grandfather clocks, as well as 'Cultural Revolution' clocks, featuring little red guards gaily waving little red books. Hou's timepieces range from less than 100 yuan to several

thousand yuan, the key is being able to tell the good from bad, the genuine from the fake.

"A fall into the pit, a gain in your wit. That is also the greatest joy in collecting" says Hou with a smile. There are two parts to a timepiece, the outer covering and the inner workings, he explains. That is to

Panjiayuan
潘
Flea Market

say, you should assess both the state of the mechanism and the casing for signs of wear and tear. Sometimes the outer casing of a clock has been replaced, you can often tell from the wrong spelling of brand names.

Others lack fine workmanship, but are frequently found in the market, thus they are of less value for collecting. The most important thing is to question the seller's words about the age of the clock. Check it out yourself from the date of production on the back cover of a timepiece.

As well as antique timepieces, you might also buy a 500-yuan old electric fan, a 50-yuan rusty kerosene lamp, cameras from the 50s and 60s, and various other secondhand goods. As Hou says, although the shop is small, the treasures themselves are enough to cheer you up. **Add:** 25, row 3 (丙排), antique hall, Beijing Panjiayuan Flea Market, Panjiayuan Rd (潘家园路), south part of east third ring road, Chaoyang District. **Open:** everyday 9am-4:30pm. **Tel:** 13011881123, Mr. Hou Shan (侯山).

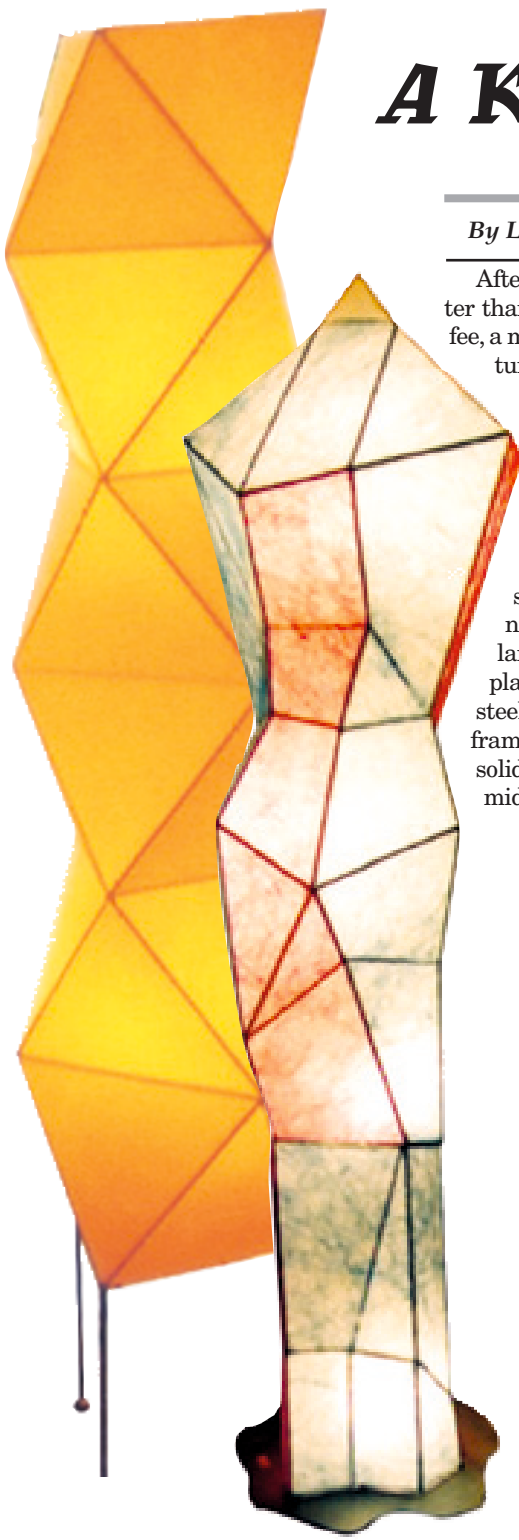


Photo by Chen Shuyi

A Kingdom of Paper Lamps

By Li Dan

After a hectic day's work, what could be better than curling up on the sofa with a cup of coffee, a magazine and some gentle music, the lights turned down, just so ... Sometimes though, it can be tricky getting the lights turned down, just so. If your home lighting is in need of fine-tuning, Oasis Light has a dazzling array of handmade lamps, guaranteed to brighten up your life.

"During the daytime, everything is dazzlingly bright, we need some soft and sweet light at home during the tranquil night," says the owner of Oasis Light. The lampshades are made with a special kind of plant fiber paper imported from Japan, over steel frames of every color and design. The frames of the lamps are designed according to solid geometry, such as cubes, cylinders pyramids and so on. Some depict characters, such

as a Chinese ancient maidservant or faces from Beijing Opera. Turned on, the lamps emit a soft, gentle light. According to the owner, "light is a kind of thing of intelligence. The change and mystery of light and its shadow create such an emotional world." Well, whether or not you consider light to be a thing of intelligence, they do have an exquisite selection of lamps!

The majority of the lamps range from 200-600 yuan, however there are a number of larger, more expensive options, such as an almost 2-meter-high pyramid-shaped floor lamp, priced at 3,700 yuan. You can also request a lamp of your own design, if you choose, and change the color of the shade. Special orders take 7 days. They also assist with export formalities, if you want to take a lamp back to your own country. **Add:** Oasis Light, No.2, NB 109, China World Shopping Mall, 1 Jianguomenwai Dajie (建国门外大街), Chaoyang District, bus 1, 4, 57, 28, 48, 9 or subway to Guomao. **Open:** 10am-9pm. **Tel:** 65050109.

A Grand Show of Curtains at Metis



Photo by Pan Zhongming

By Jiao Pei

Finding just the right furnishings to decorate your home can be a difficult task, especially in a foreign city. If the selection of lamps, curtains, cushions and other cloth-made goods available in Beijing's many department stores doesn't quite fit your needs, a shop in the Chaoyang embassy area called Metis might just have what you're looking for.

Metis has been open for three years and has in that time built up a loyal clientele in the neighboring area. Their range of curtains, mostly 100% cotton,

hemp or silk, mix simplicity, elegance and luxury. Foreign customers in particular like the silk curtains with traditional Chinese designs, say the staff. Prices vary according to the size and quality; a 1.5 by 2 meter piece of material will probably cost about 50 yuan. There is also a selection of sheets, pillowcases and satin bedspreads, and if you buy a set, you will be given a large matching bag. They also have a selection of lamps, priced from 600 yuan to over 1,000 yuan.

The shop employs its own skilled tailors. You can order your own, custom made lampshades, curtains or bedding, as well as traditional Chinese clothing. One pair of trousers costs 600 yuan, while a cushion with traditional Fu (meaning lucky) or dragon designs costs 150 yuan. All major credit cards are accepted, and the shop assistants speak excellent English. **Add:** Metis (蓓菲), A6, Gongti Donglu (工体东路), (100 meter east of KFC), Chaoyang District. **Open:** 10am-8:30pm (summer); 10am-6:30pm (winter). **Tel:** 64166409.

Anyone for Butter Tea?

By Liang Hongling

Located near the west gate of the Central University for Nationalities is a Tibetan book bar named Guge (古格). From the outside, there is nothing much to distinguish the bar from others. However when you step inside, you will find the decorations feature a distinctive Tibetan air. The fragrance of butter tea, the masks from Tibetan opera and religious rituals, the Tangkas, or Tibetan Buddhist paintings, the Mani stones with Sanskrit inscriptions and tablecloths made of Tibetan linen, might seduce you into thinking you are sitting in a cafe in



Photo by Chen Shuyi

downtown Lhasa. In one corner of the bar, there is a piece of sutra, a gift from an eminent lama. They also have a great many books, about Tibetan culture, history, religion, language, music, art and education in different languages, as well as albums of paintings and pictures showing the landscape and social customs of Tibet.

The name of the bar, Guge, refers to a period of Tibetan history. The Guge kingdom, with its capital, Tsaparang, was located in what is now the Ali region of western Tibet, and was an important point of cultural exchange between east and west from the 10th

century until it disappeared mysteriously in the 17th century. Today only ruins remain of what was once a great city.

If you want to learn more, or perhaps would just like to sample some Tibetan butter tea or barley beer, pay a visit to Guge and enjoy some real Tibetan hospitality. **Add:** west side of the west gate of Central University for Nationalities (中央民族大学). **Open:** 11:00-01:00. **Tel:** 68428315.

What's your favorite shop or stand? We will be very happy to share your experience with all our readers and don't forget, a mystery gift is waiting for you if we print your story. Please contact us at 65902522 or 13910916642. Email: jianrong@ynet.com.

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Agency Deposit Cancelled

By Wang Dandan

Recently a number of real estate agencies have dispensed with the practice of demanding deposits before showing apartments to prospective clients. These deposits have long been a contentious issue.

In order to differentiate themselves from illegal real estate agencies and attract more customers, many legally operated agencies have cancelled the practice.

According to a spokesperson from Zhongdahengji, an agency with an approved license and quality certification, they only charge the procedure fees after the lessee has signed the rental contract with the agency, showing prospective customers apartments free of charge.

There are thousands of agencies in Beijing, almost 40% of which have no legal certification, commonly known as



Qualification certificate from the Real Estate Bureau

License issued by the Municipal Administration Bureau for Industry and Commerce

'underground agencies'. The primary purpose of these agencies is to cheat unwary customers of their deposits. They move their business address frequently, using the Internet to advertise office and apartment information. When a number of customers have paid a deposit and signed a contract, they change to another place and start again.

The relevant government departments suggest that doing away with the practice of collecting deposits is a kind of marketing strategy for the agencies, rather than the standard by which to distinguish whether the agency is legally operated or not.

All real estate agencies are required to have an operating license issued by the Municipal Administration Bureau for Industry and Commerce and a qualification certificate from the Real Estate Bureau.

Housing budget reduced for expatriates

Beijing Apartment

There was more leasing activity in the Beijing luxury residential market in the second quarter of 2001. Expatriate arrivals increased slightly from the previous quarter. However, some multinational corporations continued to reduce the housing budgets for expatriates after reviewing their housing policies as part of wider cost control measures, according to Jones Lang Lasalle.

The vacancy rate rose in the second quarter due primarily to the release of new supply. The overall luxury residential market vacancy rate at the end of the second quarter was 29.7%, an increase of 2.6% over the previous quarter.

The average rent increased slightly in the second quarter of 2001. The overall average masked varied performance by housing type. Rents rose for serviced and standard apartments, while rents of villas fell. In the CBD rents rose 4.3% and 3.9% in the 3rd embassy area. In the airport area rents fell 1.8% and 1.1% in the East Chang'an area, while rents were broadly stable in the Asian Games Village Area.

Sales activity remained relatively strong for domestic sales projects. The average luxury residential capital value increased 2.6% in the second quarter. Local buyers were more active as a result of a more flexible and favorable mortgage policy. An increasing number of purchasers were non-Beijing residents, i.e. those without a Beijing residential registration ('Hukou'). Since these people are not allowed to purchase domestic properties, many have turned to the foreign sales residential market.

Measures Announced to Control Real Estate Prices

By Wang Dandan

The latest figures released by the National Bureau of Statistics show that housing prices in Beijing increased by 25% over last year, ranking first among 31 major cities in China.

At a recent conference on real estate marketing, officials from Beijing Municipal Construction Bureau and Real Estate Bureau announced three measures aimed at reigning in the rapidly rising prices.

The national average selling price of commodity apartments in the first half of the year was just over 2,300 yuan per square meter, while the average price in Beijing was almost 4,800 yuan, 1,500 yuan higher than in Shanghai, which ranks second highest.

Over the last six months, apartment prices have increased by 25%, while the average income has only increased by 10%.

The abrupt price rises have been attributed to the following factors: a growing number of people are seeking to purchase houses, thus stimulating the market; the two largest economical housing projects, Tiantongyuan and Huilongguan are not fully com-



Picture by Li Yue

pleted, so there is still a shortage of low-priced apartments.

Furthermore, some developers have exaggerated the impact WTO entry and the Olympics are likely to have, leading some consumers to make rash housing investments.

Officials at the conference said that three measures will be taken to stem the rising prices. The

construction of economical apartments such as Tiantongyuan and Huilongguan are to be accelerated; a land repertory center will be set up to keep the space for

new economical housing projects; and relevant policies will be put in place to regulate land purchasing procedures and keep prices within a reasonable limit.

Hotel Special Offers

Endless weekends-Swiss Executive Club

Stay in one of the Swiss Advantage Rooms and enjoy a complimentary upgrade to Swiss Executive Club Room Rate at \$110 per room per night (single occupancy) This rate is applicable for stays on Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday but must include a Saturday night. Valid from now until August 31, 2001. Rate is per room, per night for single occupancy. Please add 15% surcharge and 6 yuan city development fee. Includes use of all amenities on the Swiss Executive Club Floor. Additional person sharing room \$20 per night. Tel: 65012288

Kempinski Hotel Beijing Weekend Package

Enjoy a weekend of luxury at the Kempinski Hotel Beijing, with a variety of international restaurants and entertainment venues including You Yi Shopping Plaza and Department store. The special package offers everything you or your family would want for a great weekend including a variety of health & fitness & dining options all within the Beijing Lufthansa Center Complex for only 788 yuan (plus 15% surcharge and 12 yuan city development tax). Tel: 64653388

Crazy Summer in Hilton

With summer upon us, cool down and take a break from your hectic schedule with a refreshing world of savings room rates starting from \$109 from now till September 15, 2001. Summer won't last and neither will this offer. Make your reservation today by calling 64662288 extension 7325 or Hilton Reservation Worldwide at 800 820 0600. Subject to 15% surcharge and 12 yuan city development tax. (By Wang Dandan)

Beijing Lu Song Yuan a "Siheyuan" hotel



Photo by Pan ZhongMing

The hotel was the former residence of the relatives of Qing royal family and is surrounded by historic buildings.

Zenggelinqin, the first owner of the house, is described as a national hero in the film "Burning Yuanmingyuan". He threw a foreign invader into the river on seeing the imperial garden burned.

The Lu Song Yuan hotel is built around four charming traditional courtyards. It includes an outdoor lounge, bamboo gardens and a grape garden.

Many of the rooms open onto one of the courtyards. The hotel has 59 guest rooms, which are tastefully furnished with replicas of Ming dynasty furniture. There is a business center, which provides an English speaking secretarial service, copying, fax, internet access, as well as ticketing and foreign currency exchange.

The hotel features a traditional study where guests can browse through books on Chinese history, poems, and arts and crafts. Adjacent to the study, a tea room offers a taste of another Chinese tradition. The restaurant overlooks the hotel's main courtyard and is decorated in a style in keeping with the hotel's Chinese architecture, creating a pleasant dinning environment.

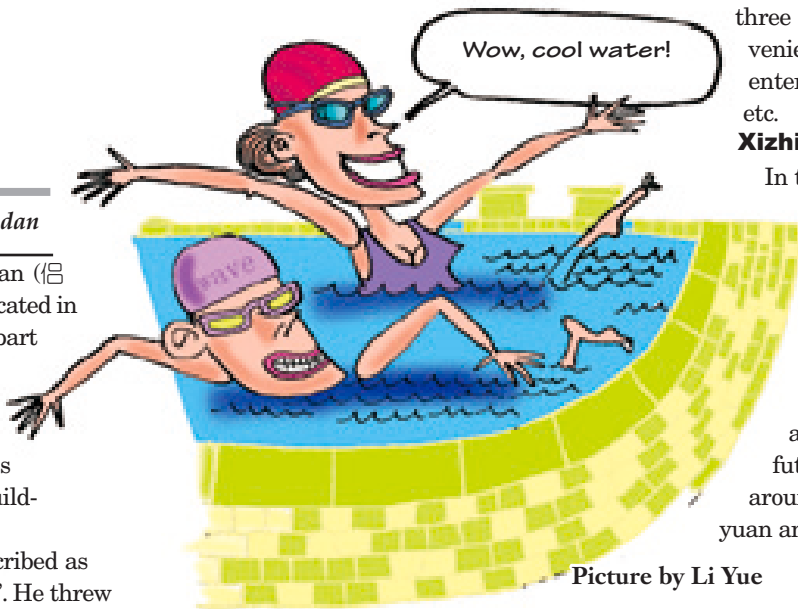
The restaurant provides western, Japanese and Beijing dishes, including Peking duck, dumplings, and noodles.

Banchang hutong, Kuanjie, Dongcheng district. Tel: 64011116
Standard room: 450 yuan, suite room: 800 yuan

"HOUSING" welcomes your feedback: What kind of difficulties do you encounter when looking for housing in Beijing? What kind of information do you need? What can we help you with?
Our E-mail: jianrong@ynet.com Tel: 65902522 Fax: 65902525

By Wang Dandan

Lu Song Yuan (吕松园) hotel is located in the northern part of Ping'an Street, near Beihai Park.



Picture by Li Yue

Guest Quiz

Target: Holiday Inn Downtown Beijing
When: 15:00-17:00, Thursday, August 11th
Hotel Detective: Wang Dandan

Lisa Thomson, Canada

I am a business woman and I hold meetings with my employees now and then.

Here they have a very well-equipped conference room. I want to save time and I do not like wandering around looking for a suitable meeting room.

And I can relax thoroughly in the recreation center. Their swimming pool is of high standard, I mean the water quality.

El Aaron, America

I like the massage here. I have very little time for entertainment and sports. And my muscles need to be exercised. I am very critical about the rooms and to my surprise, they have non-smoking rooms.

This is good, otherwise I have to suffer the smell left by the previous guest.

And my child, he can play and make friends with other children in the playground in the fitness centre.

Harold Antonie, South Africa

I like Indian food, and they have authentic Indian food in the restaurant. I can taste that even the sauces are imported from India.

It takes me back to my hometown where they also have pure Indian food.

Dwight Elton, Britain

As you see, I am a disabled. I choose to live here because they have specially equipped rooms for the handicapped. And the location is good. Near the city center with much less traffic jam.

The room has Internet access. Besides, the staff here never regard me as somebody different because of my physical weakness.

Traffic

Traffic Control During the 21st Universiade

Beijing Public Security has announced that during the 21st Universiade, certain roads around the Games Village and main routes will be subject to traffic management measures as follows:

From 8am, August 15 to midnight September 4

Vehicles other than public buses and those bearing special passes will be not allowed to drive on Zhichunlu (from the west of Xuezhijiao to south exit of Zhongguancun Donglu).

From 8am August 18 to midnight September 4

Vehicles other than public buses and those bearing special passes will be not allowed to drive on Beitucheng Xilu (from the south exit of Huayuan Donglu to Xuezhijiao), Zhongguancun Donglu (from the east exit of Haidianlu to the south exit of Zhongguancun Donglu), Xueyuanlu (from Xueyuanqiao to Jinmenqiao).

From August 18 to September 4, from 7am-10pm

Freight vehicles are not allowed through the fourth ring road (north of Sihui Bridge, east fourth road to north fourth ring road and Yuegezhuang Bridge), west fourth ring road, main part of Caihuying south road main part of Xueyuanlu (Chengfulu at the crossing of Xueyuanlu to Xueyuanqiao, Jinmen Bridge to Xizhimen), Banjinglu (between Banjing Bridge and Zizhu Bridge); from 7am-7pm, station wagons (with or less than 9 seats) and cross-country vehicles without special passes are not allowed through.

From August 18 to September 4

Freight trucks and tricycles are forbidden on the following roads between 8am and 10pm:

Shuangqinglu, Qinghuadonglu, Chengfulu and Yuanmingyuandonglu; Freight trucks with loading capacity below 2 tons are forbidden on the following roads between 8am and 10pm: Xingshikoulu (east to Wuhuan), Banjinglu (between Sijiqing Bridge and Banjing Bridge), Fushilu (between Fuyukou and Sifujiao), Beichen Donglu, Huizhonglu, Beiyuanlu (between Beishihuan and Datunludongkou), Datunlu.

Freight trucks are not allowed to run on the following roads between 8am and 10pm: Qinglongqiao Donglu (east to Anheqiao), Yuanmingyuanxilu, south to Yuanmingyuan xilu nankou. Tractors, animal-drawn carts and motor tricycles are forbidden on the above-mentioned roads for the duration of the games. One-way traffic will be adopted on Baiguanglu, between 8am and 10pm. (except for cars with a pass issued by the Universiade Organizing Committee; local car owners should apply for a pass from local traffic administration department).

On the following sections all cars should give way to Universiade service cars:

On the overtaking lane on the Airport Expressway; high speed lane (the inner lane) between Siyuanqiao and Huixindongqiao; high speed lanes of Xueyuanlu, Xierhuanlu and Caihuyingnanlu (the section running past Mingguangcunqiao, Xizhimenqiao and Caihuyingqiao); low speed lane (the outer lane) between Huixindongqiao and Wanquanheqiao. Yellow- and white lines will highlight the sections mentioned above.

Bold Chinese characters will be painted concurrently on the surface of these roads to indicate that drivers should give way to Universiade service cars.

Sports & Activities



L'oreal Fashion Summer Show 2001 The show will be in 3 sections: from 2pm, Dong Tian hairstyle & color makeup show; from 4pm, works by the students of Tang Yi & Dong Tian; from 6pm, 2001 Dong Tian color makeup release conference. Where: Beijing International Hotel, 9 Jianguomennei Dajie, Dongcheng District. When: Sunday, August 19, from 2pm. Admission: 380 yuan / person. Tel: 6512 6688

World Park

Egyptian pyramids, the Eiffel Tower and the Statue of Liberty, all in the one place! You can travel around the world in one day. Add: Daobaotaicun, Huaxiang, Fengtai District. Open: 8:30am-5pm. Admission: 48 yuan for adults, 30 yuan for kids. Tel: 63723344

Ultimate Frisbee Beijing's Ultimate Frisbee League organizes a six-week league from July 22, every Sunday on the grass at Purple Jade Villas (north of Yayuncun). Latecomers can join in for 50 yuan a game. If you

are interested, contact betsybeijing@yahoo.com or visitBeijingultimate.rocks.it



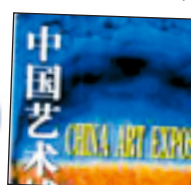
Travel on Changhe River by Dragon Boat Former imperial waterway, the Changhe River was reopened in 1998. The trip includes: all bus connections, Dragon boat to Summer Palace via Changhe River, drinks on the boat, entrance fee of Summer Palace and dinner & drinks at a restaurant. Leaving from the north gate of Worker's Stadium at 3pm. Max: 70 people. When: Sunday, August 19, 3pm-9:30pm. Ticket: 185 yuan / person. Tel: 13910051803.



Party at Velvet Room DJ Corvin Dalek will bring you to a techno world. Where: Velvet Room, Liangmahe Nanlu, Sanlitun, south of Capital Mansion, west of Bank of China, Chaoyang District. When: Saturday, August 18. Admission: 50 yuan. Tel: 64609365.

Exhibitions

The 9th National Festival of Traditional Chinese Art



Works from various countries and art organizations will be presented here. Whether you are in the market for traditional folk art or interested in the modern and experimental, this is the place to see it all. Where: China International Exhibition Center, 6 Beisanhuan Donglu, Chaoyang District. When: August 24-28. Admission: 10, 20 yuan. Tel: 84601800.

Jingdezhen Pottery and Porcelain More than 100 ceramic works of art by famous ceramic artist Chen Xianshui. Where: Beijing Lufthansa Shopping Center, 5F, Liangmaqiao, Chaoyang District, bus 413, 402 to Liangmaqiao. Time: now-Aug 26. Tel: 64651188

Summer Group Exhibition at Courtyard Gallery Group show featuring a selection of new works from Courtyard Gallery artists, such as Zhang Dali, Hong Hao, Liu Yan and Cang Xin. Opening Reception: Sunday, August 19, 2pm-5pm. Where: Courtyard Gallery, 95 Donghuamen Dajie, Dongcheng District. When: August 19-Sep., Mon.-Sat. 11am-7pm; Sun, 12am-7pm. Free. Tel: 65268882



Exhibition marking the 85th birthday of painter Yan Han (彦涵) Where: Yan Huang Art Museum, 9 Hui-zhong Lu, Haidian District. When: now-August 28, 9am-4pm. Admission: 5 yuan. Tel: 64935334.

Comprehensive Etching Elite Exhibition Works of various styles by Zhao Haipeng, Zhang Jiyou, Wei Qian, Kang Yongming. Where: Huang Shi Cheng Gallery, 136 Nanchizi Dajie, Dongcheng District. When: August 23-30, 9am-5pm. free. Tel: 65289103



Paintings of a self-taught artist Wang Jindong taught himself traditional Chinese painting. Where: Jintai Exhibition Hall, 2F, Chaoyang Cultural Center, Chaoyang District. Time: Aug 10-22. Tel: 85994224

Joint Exhibition at Creation Gallery Works by over 20 artists, such as Li Xiaoke, Yang Gang, Xiao Feng, Dong Ze. Where: Creation Gallery, North end of Ritan Donglu, Chaoyang District. When: now-August 24, 10am-7pm. free. Tel: 65067570.

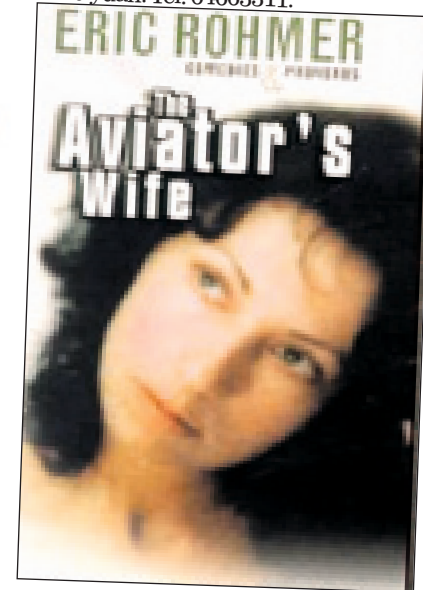


Japanese Works of Art Beijing Art Museum is showing a fine collection of more than 1000 traditional Japanese works of art, including pottery and porcelain, ivory carving, lacquer ware, metal art crafts. Where: Beijing Art Museum, Wanshou Temple, Haidian District, bus 323, 374 to Wanshou-si. Time: Aug 10-Oct 10. Tel: 68413380

Beijing Opera in Splash of Oils 18 paintings of national quintessence by Liu Linghua, a print major graduate from the northwest cultural center of Xi'an, including the Drunken Beauty, which sold recently for 1 million yuan at an auction in Shanghai. Where: China National Museum of Fine Art, 1 Wusi Dajie (五四大街), Dongcheng District, bus 104, 103 to Meishuguan. Time: now-Aug 20. Tel: 64016234

Movies

The Story Of Qiu Ju (秋菊打官司) English subtitles provided. Director: Zhang Yimou. Starring: Gong Li, Liu Peiqi, 1992, 90 minutes. In northeastern China, a local peasant is kicked in a sensitive spot by the village chief, leaving him unable to work. The man's wife (Gong Li) decides they must receive an official apology. Where: Cherry Lane Movies, Sino-Japanese Youth Exchange Center, Intl. Conference Hall, 40 Liangmaqiao Lu, 1km east of the Kempinski Hotel, Chaoyang District. When: Friday, August 24th, 8pm. Admission: 50 yuan. Tel: 64663311.



French Movie by Eric Rohmer The Marquise of O (女侯爵) (1976), 102 minutes. The Aviator's Wife (飞行员的妻子) (1980), 106 minutes. Where: Box Cafe, 5 Xiwangzhuang Xiaoku, opposite Tsinghua Tongfang Mansion, Haidian District. When: Saturday, August 18, 7pm. Admission: 5 yuan. Tel: 62791280.

Japanese Movie: Merry Christmas Mr. Lawrence Director: Nagisa Oshima, 1982, 122 minutes. Where: Sculpting In Time, 45 Chengfujie, beside the small east gate of Beida, Haidian District. When: Tuesday, Thursday, August 21, 23, 7:30pm. Admission: free with drink purchase. Tel: 62521746.

Music

Stairway to Music 2001-Music Camp

1) **Organ Recital by Thorsten Maeder** When: Friday, August 17, 7:30pm. Where: Forbidden City Concert Hall, inside Zhongshan Park. Admission: 10-60 yuan, 200 yuan box. Tel: 65598285

2) **The music of Haydn** By Central Conservatory String Quartet. When: Saturday, August 18, 2pm. Where: Forbidden City Concert Hall, 1 Beixinhua Jie, Liubukou, West Chang'an Avenue, Xicheng District. Admission: 10-60 yuan, 200 yuan box.

3) **Qin Recital by Hong Kong De'an Qin Association** By Liu Chuhua, Xie Junren, Su Sili. When: Saturday, August 18, 2pm. Where: Beijing Concert Hall. Admission: 10-60 yuan Tel: 66057006

4) **Summer Time Jazz Concert** By Touchstone Jazz Band. When: Sunday, August 19, 2pm. Admission: 10-60 yuan. Traditional Chinese Music Erhu: Lin Gan; Yangqin: Shi Yue; Pipa: Luan Yue; Zheng: Fan Ran. When: Sunday, August 19,

7:30pm. Admission: 10-60 yuan. Where: Beijing Concert Hall.

5) **Zheng Recital by Zheng Sisters, Yuan Sha, Yuan Li.** When: Wednesday, August 22, 7:30pm. Where: Beijing Concert Hall. Admission: 10-60 yuan.

6) **Baroque Trumpet Recital** By Cai Ying Conductor: Nick Smith. When: Thursday, August 23, 7:30pm. Where: Beijing Concert Hall. Admission: 10-60 yuan.



American Cincinnati Starling Chamber Orchestra First Beijing Concert From Cincinnati Conservatory of Music. The Starling Chamber Orchestra is the youngest chamber orchestra of 25 talented young musicians. Trained by famous violinist Kurt Sass-

mannshausq. Conductor: Kurt Sassmannshausq. Where: Beijing Exhibition Center Theater, 135 Xizhimenwai Dajie, Xicheng District. When: Thursday, August 23, 7:30pm. Admission: 40, 80, 120, 160, 260 yuan. Tel: 68354455.

Piano Recital by Child prodigy Where: National Library Concert Hall, 33 Zhongguancun Nandajie, Haidian District. When: Sunday, August 19 7:45pm. Admission: 10-60 yuan. Tel: 68485462

Music from CD Cafe & Get Lucky By Demon, Leading Society, Ruins at CD Cafe and T-9, Painful Belief, AK-47 at Get Lucky Bar. Where: CD Cafe, south of Agriculture Exhibition Center, Dongsanhuan Lu, Chaoyang District. When: Wednesday, August 22. Tel: 65018877-3032. Where: Get Lucky Bar, Taiyang Gong, east of south gate of Jingmao Daxue, near Taiyang Market. When: Thursday, August 23. Tel: 64299109.

Shunza Concert Where: Red Lion Pub & Restaurant, 45 Wangfujing Dajie, Dongcheng District. When: Friday, August 24, Tel: 65222146.

Restaurants & Bars



Fortune Court Chinese Restaurant (福升阁) The restaurant offers a serene atmosphere surrounded by bamboo and running water. It specializes in sumptuous Cantonese cuisine such as abalone, shark's fin and bird's nest. Where: 2F, Sci-tech Hotel, 22 Jianguomenwai Dajie, Chaoyang District, bus 1, 4, 57, 9 to Ritanlu. Time: 10am-10pm. Chinese Tea Hours: 10am-5pm. Tel: 65123388-2227

Dim Sum Buffet on Weekends Where: Horizon Chinese Restaurant, Kerry Center, Chaoyang District. When: every weekend, through August, 11:30am-2:30pm.

Listen Bar, Listen to Your Heart Friday and Saturday, Cruiser and Sensitive Flower Where: Listen Bar, 16 Minzubeilu (民族北路), Haidian District, bus 332 to Weigongcun. Time: now-Aug 31. Tel: 68468200

Carlsberg's Cool Night Where: Club Orange, 2 Xingfuyicun (幸福一村), Chaoyang District, bus 120, 110 to Xingfusan. Time: now-Aug 30, 6pm-midnight. Tel: 64157413

Performances

Folk Story of the shepherd boy and the weaving-girl A brand-new concept opera! Traditional Chinese dancing, acrobatic and Beijing Opera are combined to tell you a touching Chinese folk story. Where: Poly Theater, 14 Dongzhimen Nandajie, Dongcheng District, bus 106 or subway to Dongshihitiao. Time: Aug 24-26, 7:45pm. Tel: 65001188

Macbeth Shakespeare tragedy performed by English theatre company, the Anglian Drama Troupe. Where: China Children's Theater, 64 Dong'anmen Dajie, Dongcheng District, bus 103, 104 to Dong'an Shichang (Dong'an Shopping Mall). Time: Aug 24-26. Tel: 65129687

Beijing Opera at Huguang Hui-guan Chi Sang Zhen, Ye Han Yan, and Xi Tian Lu Shang. When: Sunday, August 19, 2:30pm. Nao Tian Gong, Duan Qiao, Jin Chi Da Peng, Lian Jin Feng. By Beijing Feng Lei Opera Troupe. When: Friday-Thursday, August 17-23, 7:30pm. Where: Huguang Hui-guan, 3 Hufangqiao Lu, Xuanwu District. Admission: 100-180 yuan, 200, 380 yuan box. Tel: 63518284.

Weather

Friday

August 17

Overcast to cloudy, Max: 32C. Min: 23C.

Saturday

August 18

overcast, showers Max: 25C. Min: 20C.

Sunday

August 19

Overcast, showers to cloudy Max: 26C. Min: 21C.

Monday

August 20

Clear to cloudy Max: 27C. Min: 22C.

Tuesday

August 21

Clear to cloudy Max: 28C. Min: 22C.

Wednesday

August 22

Cloudy Max: 27C. Min: 23C.

Thursday

August 23

Cloudy Max: 26C. Min: 23C.

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By Jiao Pei / Li Dan/Jiang Zhong



Photos by Yang Bo

The Fuping waterfalls were not at their most impressive the day I visited. However, when I stood beside the torrent, I could still feel its potentially inexhaustible power.



By Su Yan/ Jiang Zhong

The Tianqiao Waterfall scenic spot, a relatively undeveloped tourist site, is located near Zhujiayingcun(朱家营村), Fuping county, in Hebei Province. Abundant rainfall and the rocky terrain result in numerous flowing streams, which in turn, contribute to the rich growth of woods, flowers and grass. The largest group of waterfalls discovered in north China is the main attraction in this mountainous region of zigzag valleys and dense, misty forests.

Nine waterfalls positioned end to end resemble a flight of gossamer stairs. The largest of the waterfalls has a drop of 112 meters, and a natural rock bridge crossing over it is another of the valley's wonders. The one-hour trek to the base of the first waterfall can be an unforgettable experience. The clear stream escorts you along your way and the strangely shaped mountains standing on either side provide a backdrop ever changing in both

shape and color. You will hear the sound of water long before you see the waterfalls, even in the dry season, so there is no danger of missing them. Whatever your expectations of the scene, it is bound to be different from how you imagined. Even frequent visitors often find themselves surprised at the view, as just a slight change in the volume of water has a great impact on the appearance and the sound of the falls.

The day I visited, the falls gave me the impression of shy girl serenading in a measured tone. The waterfall resembles a delicate strip hanging from the side of the mountain. I tried to stand as near as possible to the water to feel its potentially inexhaustible power. How tenderly and softly the water touched my skin. I felt as though it had washed off the troubles of the world behind me. It didn't matter to me that I hadn't witnessed the waterfall at its most powerful; the extraordinary gentleness had an even greater impact, it seemed. The waterfall has its source in a cave above, and the stone bridge stands even higher. The stone steps on the left side of the waterfall will take you up to



the bridge, behind which, the second waterfall cascades down the mountainside. It's the endless pounding of the water that formed this stone bridge. You can take a rest on the bridge or crawl to the cave beneath it for a different view of the waterfall. Once you have regained your breath, proceed on up the mountain to the other waterfalls. These are much smaller than the first one, and because of the ruggedness of the trail, they are more difficult to get close to.

The seventh waterfall is particularly exquisite. It has a fall of 90 meters, and there is a beautiful pool at its foot. If you are planning on climbing up to the summit of the mountain, this is a good place to take a rest, as from here on, the trail is very hard going.

A small trail leading off from the left side of the seventh waterfall takes you to the last two falls. If you do decide to go even further to the summit, called Baicaotuo(百草坨), you'd better seek the help of a local guide, as there are many trails branching off and it is easy to lose your way.

Baicaotuo Mountain is 2,144 above the sea level, and it features a large grassy plateau on the top. On a clear day, away to the west, you can see the Wutaishan Mountains (a mountain region in Shanxi Province renowned for the Buddhist temples built on the five main peaks). The plateau provides an ideal sanctuary for numerous rare birds and animals. There are many man-made caves here, the byproducts of the war between two warlords, Yan Xishan and Zhang Zuolin 60 years ago.

How to get there:

By car: Drive along the Jingshi Expressway and take the exit for Baoding; drive on till Fuping and look for a sign pointing the way to Zhujiayingcun. The condition of the road is good, and the drive should take around five hours.

By train: Take the morning train to Baoding (the ticket costs 22 yuan), where you can catch a bus to Fuping (26 yuan) At Fuping you can hire a car to take you to Zhujiayingcun village for around 50 yuan.

By bus: Take the bus for Fuping at 7 am from Muxiyuan bus station (there is only one bus a day).

Tips:

-You can camp on the stone bridge or at the top of Baicaotuo Mountain.

-There are hotels in Zhujiayingcun Village. You can also stay in the homes of local people for 5 yuan per person per night. For more details, contact Mayuqian; 0312-7852147

-Sesame seed cake is one of the most delicious local foods. It is said that the cake is good for old people's health, you can buy some for your parents.

-Prices of local goods are lower than that of Beijing, however the quality is inferior. You should take food and water with you.

-It can get quite chilly at night on the mountain, so bring along something that you can rug up in.

-Keep an eye out for snakes. The waterfalls are at their most spectacular during the rainy season, (July to August).

-The colorful maple leaves in autumn are particularly beautiful, and you can also enjoy sweet Chinese dates at that time.

Bicycle Tours



Coppers in wax

Photos by Wang Zhenlong

The Police Museum

By Jiang Zhong

The policeman inserted my credit card into a handheld device, pressed some buttons and showed me the text on the screen, "Sir, you were driving in the wrong direction in a one-way street, you will be fined 30 yuan". Handing my credit card back to me, he pointed to the other side of the crossroads and said, "The Police Museum is there".

When I walked into the dark hall behind the grand gate of the museum, a tall man asked me to take out my mobile phone and walk through a check pass. I had no trouble in this procedure while an old man following me triggered the alarm.

The exhibition on the ground floor tells the history of Beijing Public Security Bureau. Here you will find photos of Beijing's police chiefs from the early period of the republic until today. You will also learn of the misfortunes that befell some of them in the Cultural Revolution.

The first floor focuses on the history of police in China from ancient times. The theme is Criminal Investigation. I don't normally have a lot of sympathy for criminals, but some of the ancient modes of execution illustrated in this section were rather disturbing, particularly a picture showing a Qing Dynasty 'policeman' putting a criminal to death by dismembering his naked body. I began to understand why there are so many execution abolitionists around the world! I also wondered why such brutal means of execution didn't deter more people from breaking the law! A father carefully explained to his son the detailed operation of the ancient tortures, perhaps in order to frighten him into behaving himself, but I don't think this is a very suitable place for children, on weekend days they should be taken to the park or football field. I didn't stay long on this floor and walked upstairs.

A traffic light flashing red on the second floor welcomed me back to civilized society. Highlights of the exhibition on this floor included license plates and driver's licenses of various periods since the birth of the Republic. A big signboard carried such words as 'No Pass Through For Foreigners Without Special Permits', the same meaning was expressed in Chinese and Russian too. In one corner I found a book containing a collection of comic dialogues created by policemen of the 1950s. The famous 'Overnight Bicycling', first performed by Hou Baolin is also included in the book. One of the best-known lines in the comic dialogue is like this: "all parts of the bicycle except the bell can make a sound". On this floor I saw the device that the police used to record my violation of the traffic law for the second time in one day. A Memorial Wall to the Martyrs is set up in the south of the hall. On the small table in front of the wall is a big book with pages one centimeter thick. There are total 58 names entered in the book, of local policemen killed by criminals.

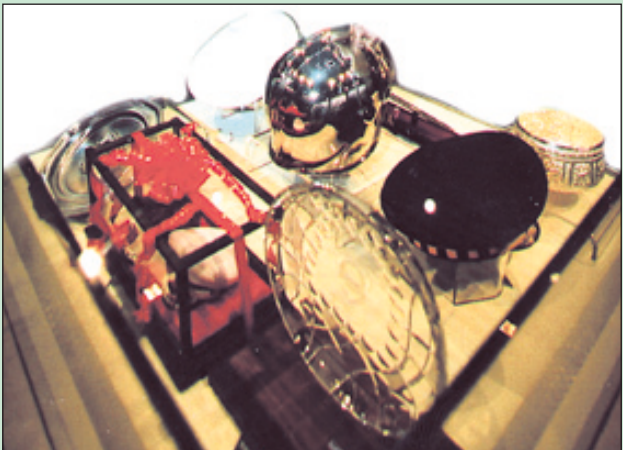
On the third floor is an exhibition of police uniforms and insignia, a group of waxwork figures, guns, rifles and some gifts given by foreign police. The waxwork of policemen and policewomen in different uniforms frightened me, because there is no smile in the face. It is said that there is a smile on the faces of the mummified Egypt Pharaohs, how could ancient Egyptians do this? I found the guns quite interesting, but I hope that they will never be fired. On this floor children can play shooting games on computer.

Where: 36 Dongjiaominxiang, Dongcheng District, Beijing

How to get there: take Nos 44,48 bus, get off at Zhengyilu and there you are.

Admittance: 5 yuan

Open hour: 9am-4pm



Gifts from around the world vie for space

We would like to share your outdoor experiences and adventures. If you have any bright ideas for great days out around Beijing, we'd love to hear from you. Please send any ideas, photos, itineraries to us.

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